



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota Celebrates Passage of Bill Expanding Access to Seizure Detection Devices through Medicaid

New law creates equitable access to lifesaving devices

May 24, 2023 [Bloomington, MN] – Today, the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) announced a significant milestone in its mission to improve the lives of individuals living with epilepsy. Thanks to the relentless efforts and unwavering dedication of the epilepsy community, a bill covering Seizure Detection Devices (SDD) under Medicaid has been successfully passed into law as a part of the larger Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill. This groundbreaking development ensures that life-saving devices capable of detecting seizures, particularly during vulnerable moments, are now accessible to individuals across all income levels.

Minnesota is the first state in the nation to pass a law covering Seizure Detection Devices under Medicaid. These devices have been clinically shown to reduce the risk of death from SUDEP or Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy, a tragic event that takes the lives of around 3,000 people in the United States per year. Wider use of Seizure Detection Devices will make SUDEP more preventable, alerting others to the seizure to provide immediate, and potentially lifesaving interventions at the point of the seizure. Devices like this can be especially helpful at night when the person who experiences seizures is asleep and unable to identify or react to a seizure.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota, a leading advocate for epilepsy awareness, education, and support, has long recognized the critical role that Seizure Detection Devices play in enhancing the safety and well-being of individuals with epilepsy. By championing this bill, the Foundation has taken a major step forward in addressing the needs of the epilepsy community, fostering inclusivity, and improving the overall quality of life for all those impacted by epilepsy and seizures.

This bill's passage signifies a breakthrough in healthcare accessibility for individuals living with epilepsy, who rely on Medicaid for their medical coverage. Seizure Detection Devices utilize advanced technology to monitor and alert caregivers, family members, or others who can help in real time when a seizure occurs. By providing timely and accurate notifications, these devices offer a vital lifeline that can prompt immediate assistance, ensuring prompt medical attention during critical moments. Seizure detection devices save lives but have been cost-prohibitive for many families.

"We are elated to witness the passing of this bill – the first of its kind in the nation. It is a significant victory for individuals living with epilepsy and their families, and for Minnesota as a



whole," stated Glen Lloyd, CEO & Executive Director of EFMN. "The inclusion of Seizure Detection Devices under Medicaid coverage squarely targets the issue of health equity for our most vulnerable neighbors. This legislation removes financial barriers to this lifesaving technology, ensuring individuals at all income levels can access seizure detection devices. This achievement represents a giant leap towards safeguarding the well-being and enhancing the quality of life for those affected by epilepsy and moves our state forward."

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota expresses its deepest gratitude to the legislators, advocates, and partners who contributed to the successful passage of this bill. Their commitment to improving the lives of individuals with epilepsy has paved the way for a more inclusive and supportive healthcare system.

Moving forward, the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota remains dedicated to its mission of empowering individuals with epilepsy through advocacy, education, and empowers seizure smart lives. The organization will continue to collaborate with stakeholders, policymakers, and community members to meet the needs of individuals with epilepsy and their loved ones.

For more information about the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota and its initiatives, please visit efmn.org.

About Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota:

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) is a patient advocacy organization offering programs and services to support people impacted by epilepsy & seizures to help improve their quality of life. EFMN's programs work to educate, connect, and empower people with epilepsy, their family, and caregivers no matter where they are on their epilepsy journey. The foundation's vision is building communities where no one journeys through epilepsy alone and its solemn responsibility is to prioritize equity in our programs and services. It operates a successful social enterprise in used clothing collection and its resale to thrift stores.

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