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Landmark Legislation Makes Illinois the First State to Mandate Access to Seizure Detection Technology Through Medicaid and Private Insurance Coverage

New law will improve access to FDA-cleared seizure detection devices for individuals and families living with epilepsy across Illinois

CHICAGO, IL — The Danny Did Foundation is celebrating the passage of landmark Illinois legislation that expands access to seizure detection technology through both Illinois Medicaid and private insurance coverage, representing a significant victory for the epilepsy community and years of collaborative advocacy efforts.

The legislation addresses longstanding barriers to accessing FDA-cleared seizure detection devices and related services, helping ensure that more individuals living with epilepsy can access and benefit from technology designed to improve safety, independence, and quality of life. The Chief Sponsors for this legislation were State Senator Julie Morrison and State Representative Bob Morgan.

"This legislation represents a huge step forward for people living with epilepsy and the families who support them," said Tom Stanton, President of the Danny Did Foundation. "For too long, access to seizure detection technology depended on a family's ability to pay out of pocket. By expanding coverage through both Medicaid and private insurance, Illinois is helping ensure that more individuals have access to tools that can provide greater safety, peace of mind, and support for independent living. We are deeply grateful to the advocates, healthcare professionals, legislators, and families whose voices made this achievement possible."

The legislation now awaits the signature of Gov. Pritzker, and reflects years of advocacy and partnership among families, clinicians, policymakers, and community organizations working to raise awareness of the role seizure detection technology can play in epilepsy care. Danny Did partnered with the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago, CURE Epilepsy, the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Southern Illinois, and the Epilepsy Action Network to make this legislation a reality, with support from leading neurologists and Epilepsy Centers across the state.

Medicaid Coverage – Effective July 1, 2027

Beginning July 1, 2027, Illinois Medicaid will provide coverage for FDA-cleared seizure detection devices when prescribed and determined to be medically necessary. Coverage includes the device itself, as well as related technology, applications, services, and subscriptions necessary for its use.

The law eliminates prior authorization requirements, ensures continued coverage once a device has been prescribed, and prevents policies that could unnecessarily restrict access. These protections will help Medicaid beneficiaries obtain and maintain access to the seizure detection technology that best meets their medical needs. The Medicaid provisions of this legislation were housed within a larger Medicaid omnibus bill, SB3365.

Private Insurance Coverage – Effective January 1, 2029

Beginning January 1, 2029, Illinois private health insurance and managed care plans will be required to cover medically prescribed seizure detection devices. Coverage will include FDA-cleared devices and supporting technology, applications, services, and subscriptions necessary for prescribed use. The legislation ensures that device selection remains a collaborative decision between patients and healthcare providers, prohibits prior authorization requirements, guarantees ongoing coverage once prescribed, and limits annual patient cost-sharing to no more than \$50. The private insurance provisions of this legislation were within SB2762.

A Significant Milestone for the Epilepsy Community

Once signed into law, these provisions will establish meaningful, long-term access to seizure detection technology for thousands of Illinois residents living with epilepsy. Epilepsy is a neurological condition that affects 1 in 26 Americans, and an estimated 150,000 children and adults living in Illinois.

About the Danny Did Foundation

The Danny Did Foundation is dedicated to preventing deaths caused by seizures through education, advocacy, and access to seizure safety resources and technologies. Founded in memory of Danny Stanton, who died from Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) at age 4, the organization works to raise awareness of seizure-related risks and to empower individuals and families affected by epilepsy with information and support.