

Handout #1
Re: Item #4



Arkansas Department of Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

October 5, 2018

Johnny Key
Commissioner

To whom it concerns:

State Board
of Education

Dr. Jay Barth
Little Rock
Chair

Charisse Dean
Little Rock
Vice Chair

Susan Chambers
Bella Vista

Dr. Fitz Hill
Little Rock

Kathy McFetridge
Springdale

Dr. Sarah Moore
Stuttgart

Ouida Newton
Poyen

R. Brett Williamson
El Dorado

Diane Zook
Melbourne

I am writing this letter in support of the Epilepsy Foundation of Missouri and Kansas in regards to the foundation expanding into Arkansas. It will bring best practice and effective programs and services to complement the medical care for those with epilepsy. Resources in education to parents, students, and school personnel in our schools will only help to keep our children safe, healthy and ready to learn.

Sincerely,

Cheria Lindsey, BSN, RN, NCSN

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ArkansasEd.gov

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Opportunity
Employer*

Handout #2
Re: Item 'L'

JACQUELINE M. HAWKINS

186 Auriel Circle, Maumelle, AR 72113 | (C) 501-940-8171 | jmedhawk@gmail.com

October 9, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jacqueline Hawkins and I live in Maumelle, Arkansas. I am writing this letter of support for the Epilepsy Foundation of Missouri and Kansas, to express the importance of the Foundation expanding into Arkansas. This program is needed to provide specialized seizure education and services across the state because there is currently no support for this underserved population.

I have close personal experiences dealing with patients with seizures as my grandmother suffered as well as a very dear friend of mine. In both situations, we were hard pressed to find any support. We initially had to research to find out how to care for them both. We searched the internet, spoke to doctors, and reached out to other seizure patients and their caregivers just to know what to expect and how we should care for our loved ones.

In my research, I learned that there are no epilepsy support groups in the state of Arkansas. Also, there are no educational opportunities for not only patients and caregivers, but firefighters, police officers, VA personnel and school teachers. Many patients have difficulty holding down jobs because employers do not understand seizures. In fact, according to a report from the CDC by M. M. Zack, Medicaid recipients have a higher prevalence of epilepsy among adults aged 20-64 years. These patients would certainly benefit from having open access to Epilepsy medications on Arkansas State Medicaid.

Expanding the Epilepsy Foundation of Missouri and Kansas into Arkansas would be a major milestone for patients. This would open up avenues for educational opportunities and support services and hopefully alleviate the stigma surrounding epilepsy.

Thank you for your time and I hope to be able to be involved in the Epilepsy Foundation of Arkansas very soon.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Hawkins