



# The Capitol Circuit

January 2020

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## National Advocacy

### Patient Groups Urge Supreme Court to Swiftly Take Up Health Care Case

In early January, [24 patient organizations, including the Epilepsy Foundation, endorsed petitions](#) filed by state attorneys general and the U.S. House of Representatives seeking expedited Supreme Court review of last month's *Texas v. United States* ruling. [Additionally, on January 15, the Foundation and 15 national patient and health advocacy groups, filed an amicus curiae \("friend-of-the-court"\) urging the U.S. Supreme Court to immediately take up the case of Texas v. US](#) and arguing that millions of individuals with serious and chronic conditions need clarity when it comes to their health coverage.

In December, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit struck down the Affordable Care Act (ACA)'s individual mandate and remanded the case back to the district court to rule on whether other components of the law, including the future of many key patient protections, remain valid. The current ruling

does not affect current health insurance coverage, coverage you have signed up for to receive in 2020, or those who have benefited from Medicaid expansion.

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## State Advocacy

### Seizure Safe Schools Legislative Activity in 2020

As 2020 state legislative sessions begin, the Foundation, local Epilepsy Foundation offices, and grassroots advocates are working diligently to have seizure safe schools legislation introduced across the nation. Several bills from last year's legislative session have rolled over to this year's legislative session in Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania. [Last week, the Jamie and Brie Strong Act \(S.B. 420\) was introduced in the Virginia General Assembly.](#) And amazing news - New Jersey became the fifth state to pass seizure safe schools legislation when Governor Murphy signed Paul's Law (S. 4141/A. 6011) into law on January 9<sup>th</sup>!

Learn more about the legislation and this nationwide initiative at [advocacy.epilepsy.com/seizuresafeschools.](https://advocacy.epilepsy.com/seizuresafeschools)

### 2020 State Legislative Sessions

2020 is here and many state legislative sessions have already begun. The Foundation is ready to engage and advocate on behalf of people living with epilepsy, their families, and caregivers to ensure access to physician-directed and patient-centered care and the rights of people with epilepsy. Please take a minute to update your contact information, including your home address, so that we can send targeted alerts based on your state and congressional district. Or take a minute to recruit a few more advocates! [Share this link or update your contact information here.](#)

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We encourage you to invite others to join our [Speak Up, Speak Out!](#) advocacy network. Members receive the monthly *Capitol Circuit* newsletter and alerts about opportunities to advocate for the epilepsy community throughout the year. Growing our advocacy network is critical to achieving our public policy goals as we move through busy state and federal legislative sessions. Make a difference today by sharing our Speak Up, Speak Out! Network on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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