



For Immediate Release

**Epilepsy Association of Utah & Hope 4 Children With Epilepsy
Announce Utahns “Paint the State Purple” for Epilepsy Awareness &
Governor Herbert Signs HB105 “Charlee’s Law”**

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - *Wednesday, March 26, 2014*

Families and communities across Utah will “paint the state purple” for Epilepsy Awareness Day this Wednesday.

The Epilepsy Association of Utah (EAU) is encouraging communities throughout the state to support those with seizure disorders by displaying purple. “We hope to see an overwhelming amount of purple on Facebook profiles, Twitter, Blogs, apparel, and signs to increase awareness that one in every 26 people live with epilepsy,” said Katie Nelson, EAU Board Member. Those who tag Epilepsy Utah on Facebook will be entered to win a t-shirt. Utahns can also support the EAU by eating at Chili’s simply by printing a flyer from the website: <http://epilepsyut.org> and bringing it into the restaurant. A percent of proceeds benefit the EAU. Educational material for all ages is available at the website, as well.

For the first time in Utah, EAU events Wednesday will include an Epilepsy Awareness Walk. The walk will be followed by a balloon launch and an Epilepsy Awareness Community Art Project. The balloon launch will include attached cards, honoring those battling epilepsy and celebrating a major win for Utah’s epilepsy families this year in the passing of HB105, Plant Extract Amendments. Festivities will have a suggested donation for each event and begin at 5 p.m. at Smith’s at 4080 W 9000 S, West Jordan. Concessions and “swag” will be available for purchase.

A parent group working in tandem with the EAU, Hope 4 Children with Epilepsy, has already garnered immense support this year for their children with intractable epilepsy by petitioning for HB105. Although the Bill was initially highly debated, supportive letters poured in to local representatives. Utah lawmakers passed HB105, known as Charlee’s Law, allowing families to access Alepsia as a treatment option recommended by a board certified neurologist. The governor signed the bill into law in a private signing with Charlee’s family on Thursday, 19 March. A ceremonial signing will be held with the families of Hope 4 Children With Epilepsy on 25 March in honor of National Purple Day, the day prior to Utah’s Paint the State Purple for Epilepsy Awareness Day. The signing will be held at 3:00pm at the capitol building.

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ABOUT THE EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION OF UTAH

Founded in 1973, The Epilepsy Association of Utah is a 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all individuals living with Epilepsy and seizure disorders. One in 26 people will develop Epilepsy at some time in their lives leading to over 100,000 people in Utah alone. Epilepsy is the fourth most common neurological disorder in the US after migraine, stroke, and Alzheimer’s. The Epilepsy Association of Utah offers a public education program, statewide support groups, personal and professional advocacy, college scholarships, art exhibits, educational conferences, summer camp and more. Visit <http://epilepsyut.org> for additional information.

ABOUT HOPE 4 CHILDREN WITH EPILEPSY

We are parents of children with severe forms of epilepsy. Most have multiple types of seizures every day, varying in intensity and length from seconds to hours. The seizures take a toll on the children's overall health, ability to function, and quality of life. These children also have 10-times increased risk for sudden death. We *desperately* need new treatment options that hold hope for controlling the seizures, stopping the deterioration, and improving quality of life for our kids. We have been lobbying to make high-CBD/low-THC cannabis extract available in Utah to those who suffer with intractable epilepsy. The extract is NOT smoked and it CANNOT get anyone 'high', but it CAN save the lives of our children. Visit www.hope4childrenwithepilepsy.com for additional information.

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