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To Whom It May Concern,

Dravet syndrome is refractory epilepsy that begins in the first year of life and is intractable to current available medications. Children initially present with recurrent bouts of prolonged seizures, and this diagnosis carries a significant risk of seizure-related death. Stiripentol has been shown to be effective in approximately 70% of cases, significantly reducing both prolonged seizures and overall seizure frequency. It is the standard of care if treatment with clobazam and valproic acid fail. This medication is essential to prevent prolonged seizures and the associated brain injury and potential mortality that go along with them. Stiripentol is routinely available in Europe, Canada, and Japan and is covered by Medicaid in many states in the US. It is standard of care for Dravet syndrome.

I fully support the bill that will be submitted to allow children in Minnesota with Dravet syndrome and Malignant Migrating Focal Epilepsy in Infancy to access this life-saving medication.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elaine Wirrell".

Elaine Wirrell
Director of Epilepsy, Professor of Neurology,
Mayo Clinic,
Rochester MN

