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Til: Folketingets Oplysning
Emne: Dianalund Epilepsy Hospital

Dear Members

It is with great concern that the International League Against Epilepsy has received the distressing news about the impending closure of Dianalund Epilepsy Hospital, the only Epilepsy Centre in Denmark. Epilepsy is a very common disease that can have life long effects. The recently approved European Declaration on Epilepsy is a testament of the importance to bring awareness to government and health officials that research and legislation remain key issues in alleviating the plight of people afflicted with this devastating disease, and to ensure that proper care is available to them.

Because epilepsy is a multi faceted disease, any well-functioning system for delivery of epilepsy care must include highly specialized referral centers capable of handling the needs of a diverse population, and provide adequate facilities for diagnosis and treatment care. These include prolonged combined video and EEG registrations in the diagnostic field, specialized neuropsychological investigations and evaluation programs for the selection for epilepsy surgery, including special imaging approaches. In the therapeutic field, the highest level centers provide care for multiple handicapped individuals and for patients with non-epileptic psychogenic and other seizures. They also offer vagus nerve and other brain stimulation therapies as well as ketogenic diet for children with intractable seizures. The Dianalund Hospital is the only place in Denmark with the necessary resources and expertise to provide appropriate treatment care for most of these conditions. In addition to its crucial role in the national health care for your country, the Danish Epilepsy Centre has also developed into an active and increasingly prolific research institution of excellent international renown, whose contributions to the scientific progress in epileptology would be an immense loss if the Centre disappeared.

It is generally assumed that in an adequate health system, one highest level epilepsy centre needs to be available for a population of 4 to 5 million inhabitants, about the population of Denmark. We are aware that the present situation is a result of changes in your health care system where five regions take responsibility for their population. It is, however, unrealistic to assume that expertise and facilities for highest level epilepsy care can be built up in parallel for 5 subpopulations of about 1 million each. Furthermore, such a system would not prove to be cost-effective.

For these reasons, we urgently plead that you ensure the continuous existence and activities of the Danish Epilepsy Centre which represents an essential and crucial outlet for the epilepsy community in Denmark.

Best regards



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