



National Association of School Nurses

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Student-to-School Nurse Ratio Improvement Act of 2009 H.R. 2730

- Reintroduced by Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) and 12 co-sponsors on June 4, 2009.
- Now has bi-partisan support and 19 co-sponsors as of 10/22/09.
- Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The Subcommittee on Health is chaired by Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ).
- Based on the organizational supporters of the former bill, the new bill is expected to have initial support of at least 50 national and state organizations (see other side).
- Currently, more than 50% of public schools in the U.S. do not have a full time Registered Nurse. Wide ratio disparities exist from state to state, within school districts, and between urban and rural schools.
- The Act would provide competitive demonstration grants through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to eligible states so that they may reduce the student-to-school nurse ratios. CDC would then report to the Congress on the efficacy of the piloted grant program regarding the relationship between the provision of student health services and educational outcomes.
- Students today have increasingly complex needs for nursing care. School nurses help facilitate learning for all students, especially those with asthma, food allergies, obesity, vision and hearing difficulties, dental problems, mental and behavioral problems, and those who need prescribed medicine for either acute or chronic conditions.
- With 97% of school-age children in the U.S. spending their days at school, the role of the school nurse is critical to the implementation of quality school health services. For many children, contact with a school nurse is often the only consistent access to a health care professional.

List of Supporters for the Student-to-School Nurse Ratio Improvement Act

Allergy & Asthma Network, Mothers of Asthmatics
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Art Therapy Association
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.
American Counseling Association
American Dental Association
American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO
American Federation of Teachers
American Lung Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American School Counselor Association
American School Health Association
Center for Health and Learning
Coalition for Community Schools
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Council for Exceptional Children
First Focus
Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network
Healthy Schools Campaign
Healthy Schools Network, Inc.
LEAnet
Linking Education and Practice Public Health Nursing
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Pupil Services Administrators
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Education Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Nevada State Association of School Nurses
Nursing Organizations Alliance
Oral Health Awareness Colorado!
PKIDs, Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases
School Health Corporation
School Social Work Association of America
South Carolina Association of School Nurses
Stakeholders Collaboration to Improve Student Health
United Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Voices For Vaccines
Wisconsin Association of School Nurses
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction