

**Kelcie Grace Collins, RN**  
**Testimony Regarding SB 339**  
**February 23, 2015**

Senator Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding SB 339. As a former school nurse, I fully support this legislative recommendation. I use to be a school nurse, but the unmanageable work load led me to leave my position. I was responsible for seven school and nearly 3000 students.

The role of a school nurse is imperative to the education of children. It is so easy to think that the role of the nurse is minimal in the schools today because the nurse may only be on the campus for a few hours a week. When I was a school nurse I was responsible for training staff to respond to emergencies including, injections, rectal medication, and inhales. I communicated with other providers and parents about the care of children, managed the health rooms to ensure state laws were followed in regards to medication and supplies, and responded to emergent events when available—anything from broken bones to seizures.

Nursing skills are crucial to keep students with health concerns in school, but students without special medical needs benefit from the presence of a school nurse. I did a little study on my own to see how many children were sent home sick on the days I was present vs the days that only a health room assistant or secretary were available. I sent home 45 percent less students than the other staff.

The role of the nurse keeps children in school and learning. I urge to you consider this recommendation. Thank you.