



Senator Arnie Roblan, Chair
Senate Education Committee
Salem, Oregon

22 March, 2017

Dear Arnie-

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 111. I can report firsthand of the emergency need for passage of this Bill. I have provided Nursing Services for the 2500+ students of the NBSD#13 for the past 28 months. I am very fortunate to have the support of my District, and Administrators, but we do not remotely approach the RN:student ratio for safety directed by the State of Oregon.

School Nursing has evolved into a Primary Care Clinic, with the RN and Designated Trained Personnel being the only health care many students see, whether an issue of finances, transportation, or other. In a typical day, I see 25 to 56 students, ranging from lacerations and injuries, to Type 1 Insulin Dependent diabetics in glycemic crisis, to actively seizing students requiring emergency medication. I manage pregnancies, Sexually Transmitted Infections, cutting and suicide attempts, depression, anxiety and drug abuse, all in my population of K-12+ students. I provide Medical Diagnostic information for 504 and IEP plans, as well as attending to provide the Nursing Management for the education plans of those students. I wrote more than 1500 Protocols for Asthma last year.

I know an RN in Oregon with 6000 students to one RN, basically "putting out fires" all day, with no time for teaching or in-depth care when needed. School Nursing pay is less than 80% of RN pay. RN's accept, on average, a 20% pay cut to work in schools. It truly is a labor of love. Many, many Districts are without Nursing Services, due to a lack of competitive compensation.

The positive impact of good health on student attendance, academic progress, and personal success is well documented. Regular student attendance results in higher matriculation rates, lower entry into the juvenile justice system, and lower cost to the State. School Nurses work to keep kids “safe, healthy, and ready to learn”. We work with nutrition in our breakfast and lunch programs so kids learn to eat healthy, we work with bicycle and automobile safety so kids have safe, healthy lives, and we work with hygiene and sex education to eliminate disease and produce responsible, aware adults.

Please support Senate Bill 111.

Thank you-

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