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March 23, 2017

Dear Senators,

I am writing you on behalf of district nurses in Oregon. I am the district nurse for Central Point School District #6 in Jackson County. They hired me this year; I am the first nurse they employed in over 25 years. I was hired under the impression that they had 40 students with health related issues in the district of 4,700 students. Once I arrived I was able to use the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) standards to identify over 205 students that need regular monitoring and anticipated emergency plans for them to remain in school. These students have issues from seizures and diabetes to a heart transplant, as well as many students with allergies that require may require epi-pen use.

ODE request annually a report from each district on the health of their students. I have seen this report and like I learned in my own district these numbers are may be grossly under reported. Under reported because when a school identifies the student, they don't have a nurse to help them identify medical interventions and are unaware of implications of not having a plan. They don't know how to report these students to the state because they don't have district nurse.

The reasons these schools don't have a nurse has to do with funding. I know that was the issue with my district. A program to assist school with funding a nurse would be an amazing addition to education system. A grant to help schools provide the services will allow district to see what having a nurse and nursing services can offer they district. It would make it so they won't have to choose between a teacher or a nurse when budgets come in to play. I would strongly recommend a grant or assistance program for a district nurse. I know this is money well spent.

On a more personal note, I know that I have made an impact on students' lives. I have been apart of helping a mom and doctor with a medical diagnosis of chronic hypoglycemia in a special needs student. I work with a kindergarten student with diabetes that is learning to make good food choices. I have helped a student with a brain shunt return to the classroom after being out of the public education system for 3 years. I truly love my job and the hugs when I walk down the halls of my schools always brings a smile to my face.

Thank You,

Windy Sigler, RN

District Nurse

Central Point School District 6