



Oregon School Employees Association

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March 28, 2017

Senator Arnie Roblan, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 111 with the -2 amendment

Chair Roblan and members of the committee,

I am writing today on behalf of the more than 21,000 members of the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) in support of the school nurse bill, Senate Bill (SB) 111 with the -2 amendment.

OSEA represents employees working in Oregon school districts, community colleges, education service districts, Head Start agencies, libraries and park and recreation districts. This includes educators in early learning, special and general education, public safety, health and nutrition.

SB 111 with the -2 amendment, will establish an optional pilot program for nine school districts including an educational service district, and will attempt to reflect the diversity of the state in terms of district size and geographic location. The pilot program will provide technical assistance to participating school districts, and will develop a statewide system to support Medicaid billing for medical services currently provided to students in schools. This bill will also require the Department of Education to report to the legislature in 2020 on the outcomes of the pilot program, provide an analysis of the cost and benefits, and any proposed legislation.

This bill is important to OSEA members because until school districts are provided with the funding sufficient to achieve the recommended nurse to student ratios, non-medical school support personnel are providing and will continue to provide complex medical procedures to their students. This school year I've heard from OSEA members in our Bend –La Pine, Central, Coos Bay, Corvallis, Dallas, Eugene, Gresham- Barlow, Hermiston, Lake County, Lake Oswego, Lane County Head Start, Lincoln County, Madras, Medford, Newberg, North Clackamas, Oregon City, Oregon Trail, Parkrose, Phoenix-Talent, Rainier, Reynolds, Sherwood, Silver Falls, Suislaw, St. Helens, Sweet Home, Tigard-Tualatin, Veronia and West Linn – Wilsonville chapters on this issue.

Beyond basic first aid treatment, non- medical school support personnel are being directed to provide the following types of medical procedures to their students: catheterizations (two different

types), tube feeding, seizure treatments, administration of pharmaceuticals (including medically prescribed narcotics), blood glucose monitoring and insulin injections. Most of the members I heard from, said they recently (with in the last year) received training and felt it was sufficient for the medical procedures they are performing. With very few exceptions, the non-medical school support personnel providing these complex medical procedures were not previously employed as medically trained or licensed professionals.

OSEA members are being provided with sufficient training, have someone they can talk to about questions related to the medical needs of their students, and for the most part are comfortable providing these medical procedures. However, in many cases there are consequences for non-medical school support personnel when they refuse to provide procedures that in any other setting would be provided by a medical professional. Other possible consequences that should be considered when non- medical school support personnel are providing these procedures are mistakes, which for OSEA members could mean a write up, termination or law suit. For students, a mistake can result in serious injury, comas and possibly death.

For these reasons OSEA supports SB 111 with the -2 amendment and any other effort of the Oregon Legislature to provide on-site nursing staff in all Oregon schools to administer medical procedures.

Thank you,
Soren Metzger
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