

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF ONGOING AND INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL NURSES

SUBMITTED BY: Salisbury University Student Nurses' Association

- WHEREAS, nationwide, there is roughly one school nurse for every 950 students, while the United States Department of Health and Human Services recommends one school nurse for every 750 students; and
- WHEREAS, school staff (teachers, secretaries, and principals) spend an estimated combined 13 hours a day that could be spent in the classroom addressing health concerns of students when a school nurse is not present; and
- WHEREAS, rates of childhood allergies, asthma and obesity are increasing, thus increasing the necessity of the school nurse; and
- WHEREAS, since the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1990, students with disabilities are increasingly able to attend public schools. This is increasing the complexity of care provided by school nurses, such as tracheostomy care and intermittent catheterizations; and
- WHEREAS, school nurses advocate for students with disabilities by assisting in the assessment and development of Individualized Educational Plans, which maximize the education experience of these children; and
- WHEREAS, dangerous errors are more likely to occur when unqualified personnel administer medications; and
- WHEREAS, 9.0% of children nationwide do not have health insurance. The school nurse ensures access to primary healthcare; and
- WHEREAS, school nurses fill the vital role of health promotion, including, but not limited to, providing accurate health education, developmental and health screenings; and
- WHEREAS, schools with nurses on staff have better immunization rates because the nurses review records and/or provide immunizations, thus allowing students to attend school who would otherwise be unable and increasing the health of all by increasing herd immunity; and
- WHEREAS, nurses in schools are more likely to provide treatment, have emergency plans in place, and follow those emergency plans than those without nurses; and
- WHEREAS, schools have better attendance rates and children are sent home less often when a nurse is on staff. A secretary or health aid may send a child home because they do not have the ability to make an assessment or nursing diagnosis; and
- WHEREAS, core nursing functions such as assessment, planning, diagnosis, intervention, and evaluation may never be delegated even to unlicensed assistive personnel; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the NSNA increase awareness about the importance of school nurses and their responsibilities through publishing an article in *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, the National Association of School Nurses, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the National Association of Boards of Education, the American Public Health Association, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.