

# Support for the NURSE Act



“This bill will provide much needed health services to children who live in areas with the greatest need. We want children to be healthy, safe and ready to learn and yet research tells us that children who live in poverty have unmet health needs and many are food insecure. These children have higher drop-out rates, more missed school days and lower academic performance. Senator Tester understands what is important. Providing school nursing services to children at risk not only will benefit children, but all will be better served as we create healthier communities.”

**-Beth Matthey, President of the National Association of School Nurses**

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“Sadly, school nurses often are the first to be cut under school district austerity budgets, yet half of all public school children live in poverty and have limited access to health services. The presence of school nurses is vital for the well-being of children. School nurses can save lives, as in the case of a Philadelphia student who died of an asthma attack in 2013 at a school without a nurse, or help children deal with the health impact of unsafe and unhealthy school building conditions, like we’re seeing in Detroit. The top five health problems of children involve mental health issues, which school nurses say they spend one-third of their time addressing. Without school nurses, these conditions would be even more invisible than they are now. We strongly support passage of the NURSE Act so children in under-resourced public schools can get immediate care and be ready to learn.”

**-Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers.**

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“The American Nurses Association supports the “Nurses for Under-Resourced Schools Everywhere Act” or the “NURSE Act”. While the primary goal of schools is to educate students, the American Nurses Association believes schools also have a role in assuring the physical health, mental health, and safety of children and youth, all of which are directly related to student achievement. The registered school nurse is the lynch pin through delivery and coordination of care, information, education and identification of resources. The availability of demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies to increase the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools is a step closer to improving the health of our youth.”

**-Michelle Artz, American Nurses Association**

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“School nurses help ensure we have healthier kids and more successful students. By creating a Department of Education demonstration grant program to increase the number of nurses in our high-need schools, the NURSE Act is an important step forward in improving the wellbeing of our children and our schools.”

**-Richard Hamburg, Interim President and CEO of the Trust for America’s Health**

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“We applaud Sen. Tester for introducing the NURSE Act, a bill to resource schools with much-needed, full-time nurses, especially in rural areas, so students have the support and education professionals they need to set them off toward a great future. Schools nurses are critical contributors to students’ academic achievement by performing intervention services for hearing, vision, and mental health challenges. Given that only 45 percent of schools nationwide have a full-time nurse available, the Nurses for Under-Resourced Schools Everywhere will go a long way towards making sure all students have the tools and support to learn regardless of ZIP code.”

**-Mary Kusler, Director of Government Relations of the National Education Association**

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“Children spend a large amount of time at school, and as more students enter schools with health or mental health problems, nurses are able to provide extremely important on-site care. Students face a variety of problems including family crises, homelessness, immigration, poverty, and violence. An on-site school nurse is crucial to meeting these needs and ensuring that children receive and are directed to appropriate care.”

**-Bernard Dreyer, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics**