Association of School Nurses of Connecticut
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TESTIMONY RE: R.B. NO. 5856, AN ACT CONCERNING THE EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE ON SCHOOL BUSES AND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

Judiciary Committee Hearing
March 10, 2008

Good afternoon Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Raised Bill No. 5856, AN ACT CONCERNING THE EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE ON SCHOOL BUSES AND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES on behalf of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, the professional organization for school nurses. I am Donna Kosiorowski, a registered nurse, a nationally certified school nurse, and a member of the association. I am the supervisor of School Health Services in West Haven and have been in school nursing for 23 years.

Our Association does not support Raised Bill 5856 for the following reasons:

- Bus drivers are responsible for the control of the bus and for all the children on board. For that reason, bus drivers should not serve as first responders.
- Some school districts contract out for transportation services.
- Bus drivers may be employed by an agency outside of the district.
- Bus drivers are not consistent due to turnover and the use of substitute drivers.
- A plan of care for each child with an allergy is done on an individual basis by the school nurse.

- School nurses are knowledgeable of staff in their building(s) and are able to assess the safety and the ability of the person they train.
- School nurses have minimal, if any, knowledge about bus drivers individually and as a group.
- Supervision and consultation by the school nurse may not be available before and after school hours.
- Categories of school personnel authorized under Connecticut law to administer medications are increasing (from teachers and principals to coaches, paraprofessionals; now to bus drivers).
- Expanding the categories of school personnel authorized under Connecticut law to administer medication compromises the safety of students; the individuals currently authorized have a close and consistent relationship with their students; bus drivers have a casual relationship.
- Safety is a primary factor in determining whether medication administration for individual students is appropriate.

We urge the committee to consider our concerns and to reject this bill. We are available to the committee if there are questions or additional information is needed.