



Association of School Nurses of Connecticut
Connecticut Nurses' Association
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TESTIMONY RE: R.B. NO. 5667, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF
INSULIN PUMPS IN SCHOOL
Public Health Select Committee Hearing
March 3, 2008

To: Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public
Health Committee

From: The Association of School Nurses of Connecticut
The Connecticut Nurses' Association

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill
5667 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF INSULIN PUMPS IN SCHOOL.

The Association of School Nurses of Connecticut and the Connecticut Nurses' Association oppose this bill which would allow the delegation of the use of insulin pumps to paraprofessionals. While entering data into an insulin pump seems simplistic, there are many reasons why this should not be done by paraprofessionals in the school setting.

- Inaccurate data entered into an insulin pump can result in an emergency situation. Insulin given in excess doses can be fatal.
- Entering this data involves both nursing judgment and assessment. These activities cannot be delegated by nurses to unlicensed personnel.
- Many criteria need to be taken into consideration when entering data into an insulin pump, such as the student's blood sugar level, the number of carbohydrates consumed, the amount of physical activity both prior to and following the insulin bolus. Not all insulin pumps automatically inject the correct amount of insulin; some must be



programmed with the dose. All of these activities require nursing judgment and assessment.

- In order for the insulin pump to work properly the patency (the state or quality of being open or unblocked) of the injection site must be assured. Paraprofessionals do not have the knowledge and skills to determine this, nor do they have the knowledge and skills to make adjustments to the dose or data entered into the pump.

Paraprofessionals in the school setting do not have any medical background.

School nurses educate students each time they work with them in order to promote and assess the student's knowledge to facilitate helping that student become independent in their care. Paraprofessionals on the other hand do not have the skills to provide this education and can ultimately promote increased dependence on others or misinformation.

Some of the arguments for having paraprofessionals enter data into the pump is to decrease the amount of time a student spends in the health room. In most situations, when appropriate, school nurses can go into the classroom to enter data into insulin pumps. In some situations parents and students would prefer that this be taken care of outside of the classroom for privacy reasons. School nurses work to plan care for students in order for students to be in school, in class and ready to learn. Insulin pumps should be managed by school nurses in that context.

Thank you for considering our concerns and we urge the committee to reject this bill as it would not improve care for children and could create an unsafe environment for students with diabetes.

We are available for additional information and consultation about this issue.