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Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of **HB 6687**, "**AAC Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes**", specifically to Section 5, regarding Section 10-212 of the general statutes "increased qualifications for school nurses."

Registered nurses with advanced education should be available in school due to the complexity of the student today. The economic crisis that we all face today is affecting the student's mental and physical performance in school. The student seeks out the school nurse to assist them when they are in crisis over school, illness, family, or friends. A nurse with advanced education is better prepared to address these situations.

Presently, Cheshire is a small system employing all Registered Nurses, some with Masters degrees. Each school is unique in the types of families they serve. Every nurse is aware of problems that families in their schools face daily regarding hardship, illness, and loss. The school nurse realizes the importance of education but, in order for a student to be successful academically, physical needs must be addressed. A nurse with advanced education and preparation for working in school understands the whole student and can meet a range of needs to guide the student and support their academic success.

Funding has always been an issue in school nursing. Mandating that there should be a qualified nurse in school will not impact the finances of a school system. Rather, a qualified school nurse will have an effect on the attendance and health of students by providing quality health care, prevention and intervention thus increasing their academic success.

As a school nurse and constituent, I urge you to support HB 6687. As you decide on this important decision, I invite you to visit our schools and our nurses.

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Cheshire