

TESTIMONY OF
GEORGE A. COLEMAN, ACTING COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

ON

RAISED BILL 1144

**AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS WHO REQUIRE
TUBE FEEDINGS**

The State Department of Education (CSDE) opposes Raised Bill No. 1144, *An Act Concerning School Attendance For Students Who Require Tube Feedings*, in the interest of maintaining the safe level of care that currently exists in public and private schools when providing care for students who require tube feedings.

While children in daycare homes and residential facilities under DDS do not have daily access to nurses, children who require tube feedings in public and private schools have access to school nurses who assess, plan, implement and evaluate the appropriate care associated with this nursing treatment. Allowing unlicensed assistive personnel to perform this nursing treatment is in direct conflict with the national scope and standards of school nurse practice. Nurses must adhere to this standard and are responsible for the care of all students in a given school, district or region. Advocating for a lower level of care for students who require tube feedings in schools, places the children at risk for the adverse and potentially fatal outcomes from substandard care and from an ill-equipped knowledge base that is unable to assess, manage and evaluate the complexities that are associated with this procedure.

Students who require tube feedings in schools are provided with professional school nursing care and management so that they are safe, healthy and ready to learn. Reducing this level of care is not in the best interest of our students, and therefore, the CSDE opposes Raised Bill No. 1144, *An Act Concerning School Attendance For Students Who Require Tube Feedings*.