



Advocating for teachers  
and public education

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**Executive Office**

Mark Waxenberg  
Executive Director

**Affiliate Services & Member  
Training**

Sue Fulleton, Director  
Capitol Place, Suite 500  
21 Oak Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-525-5641 800-842-4316  
Fax 860-725-6307

An affiliate of the  
National Education Association

*Connecticut Education Association*

*Before the*

*Education Committee*

*HB 5521*

*An Act Concerning the Storage and Administration of  
Epinephrine at Public Schools and Public Institutions of  
Higher Education*

*March 12, 2014*

Good afternoon Senator Stillman, Representative Fleishman, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Bob Namnoum, a UniServ Representative for the Connecticut Education Association (CEA). CEA represents 43,000 members who are active and retired teachers across the state. We are in support of H.B. 5521, An Act Concerning the Storage and Administration of Epinephrine at Public Schools and Public Institutions of Higher Education

CEA employs UniServ Representatives who work day-to-day with local affiliate associations and their members. We provide many professional services from coordinating professional development activities to negotiating contracts and terms of employment. In this latter role we frequently confront health issues of students and the role teachers play in providing the proper care for those students in need of medications during the school day.

CEA supports this bill, for it expands the role of teachers in responding to medical needs of students in their care. The first line of support for students is typically found with the school nurse, but in the absence of one, this law further clarifies the role of the teacher with the establishment of clearly defined policies in each school district. It also defines who may administer needed medications and under what circumstances. Beside teachers, there are also others who may be designated to give medicine: principals, licensed athletic trainers, PT or OT professionals, coaches and school paraprofessionals.

While teachers have long attended to the medical needs of their students, this law provides clarification of the liability issue for those who do so. A constant source of concern for teachers has been the issue of personal liability for the teacher. The new language to this bill clarifies that liability issue by stating that those administering the medication pursuant to the law shall not be held liable. The immunity, of course, would not be extended to acts or omissions constituting gross, willful or wanton negligence.

Additionally, another major concern for teachers is being addressed in this bill, for it clarifies the processes for administration of medicines in the schools. It makes clear that written guidelines and policies be established in school districts from which teachers can access information. It allows for appropriate teachers to be made aware of which students are able to self-administer their medications without violation of any laws. This information is necessary for both student safety and for the teacher to be able to respond in a timely fashion if a medical emergency were to arise.

CEA urges your support of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.