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Greetings to the Co-Chairs and members of the Public Health Committee:

This letter is in support of SB 224: *AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL NURSE ADVISORY COUNCIL*

We the above are an active working nurses and nurse practitioners within a multitude of school settings. As advocates for school health and wellness, we strongly urge you to support the student to nurse ratio delineation and put forth in writing clear objectives by which school administration could be *guided by*.

Specifically, the school nurse is met with the daily challenges of juggling student visits, medication management, emergencies, ambulance transports, special needs issues, PPT's/504's, family interactions, phone calls, supply procurement, social service/DCF collaboration and referrals, state mandated scoliosis screenings, vision, and hearing screenings, incontinence of bowel and bladder issues, pink eye, fights, playground falls and concussions, one more call to parents for that mandatory physical, bee stings, peanut allergies and "I want to kill myself" How can one nurse do all that in one day???

Where is the time to review that field trip list for medications? What is that Diastat medication for seizures? Clear those kids for sports? How can I get that vision referral done, he cannot see the blackboard and he is failing in academics?

We work in schools that are 1:1350 (nurse to student ratio) encompassing 2-3 *separate and distinct* academies within large schools. There are 60-100+ students that come down and pass through the nursing office. This does not include new students and parents that "pop in" because they need to register their new student. This does not include the times when the Nurse Practitioner gets "pulled" to become both the nurse and nurse practitioner roles.

We strongly support passage of the nurse to student ratio as a "start" to bring feasibility of *quality student care* to all our children. Whether it is 1:600, 1:700, or 1:750, we need to start somewhere and this is a *safe and feasible start*.

Thank you,

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