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**HB 5303 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO EMERGENCY MEDICINE FOR
CHILDREN WITH EPILEPSY**

Committee on Children

Thank you to Senator Bartolomeo and Representative Urban and members of the Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 5303 An Act Concerning Access to Emergency Medicine for Children with Epilepsy.

I have been a school nurse and school nurse supervisor since 1985. Over my 29 years in school health, I have seen health care, including medication administration, become the responsibility of teachers and principals, then coaches, then paraprofessionals. I have seen daily medication administration become emergency rescue medications, including inhalers for asthma and epinephrine for anaphylaxis, and now to antiepileptics.

Although there may be situations when such medications can safely become the responsibility of non medical personnel, there are certain situations where delegation is not safe or appropriate. For example, students with dual diagnoses, including epilepsy and diabetes, when the cause of the seizure must be determined before any interventions are made. Every health issue is individual specific and dependent on the needs of the individual and the situation. School nurses have the expertise to determine who, what, when, and how the health care of children can become the responsibility of a non-medical person.

Training for staff must be addressed. Training for more complex health care activities must be defined and districts must be accountable to insure that such training is provided.

In addition, reference to antiepileptic medications does not consider the potential for new modes of administration and new medications in the future. Such language, in the context of medications currently used, leaves nothing to consider for new and potentially complex issues in the future.

I emphasize that this bill, although in concept seemingly supportive for children with epilepsy, may result in unintended consequences. The School Nurse Advisory Council, created by legislation in 2013, was directed to develop protocols for administration of emergency medications. Recommendations by the Council will be forthcoming in 2015. I urge you to delay passage of this legislation while the Council deliberates on the issue. Thank you for your consideration.