

Michael Corjulo APRN, CPNP, AE-C
President Association of School Nurses of Connecticut
Area Cooperative Education Services (ACES)
350 State Street North Haven, CT 06473
(203) 498-6857
mcorjulo@aces.org

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HB 7023 An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes

Thank you, Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 7023, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes**, Section 4.

I am Michael Corjulo, President of the Association of School Nurses of CT (ASNC) and a primary care provider who is also an active participant on the PCMH Care Management Committee. I very much appreciate this proposed legislation that aligns screenings in school with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines. There are a few underlining trends that directly support the rationale for these revisions:

- This reflects the current trend in healthcare that CT has invested into: promoting primary care for every Medicaid recipient with the state's innovative PCMH program. As we commit to ensuring that every child has a primary care provider who can provide comprehensive annual Well Child Care, we are no longer in a position to rely on schools to compensate for that lack of healthcare.
- This will decrease the time students spend out of their class receiving screenings that may be redundant or not clinically indicated, while still maintaining a process to ensure screenings are done at ages that follows AAP guidelines (http://brightfutures.aap.org/tool_and_resource_kit.html).
- This supports our efforts to help districts use their school nursing resources more efficiently, meeting the acute and chronic care needs of students, and optimizing their time in class ready to learn.

I do respectfully request that additional wording be added to clarify that schools do not need to duplicate screenings if done within some reasonable timeframe (i.e. 6-9 months) of that grade by an appropriate healthcare provider. The rationale for the timeframe is that students who are required to have a 7th grade physical will often get that done during the previous spring or summer, which meets all of the other health requirements, including immunizations and sports participation, and should meet the criteria for these screenings as well, which appears to be the intent.

I would also support future consideration for increasing the grades that comprehensive physicals are required, which would foster students connection with their Medical Home, address their physical and mental health care needs more proactively, and support the state's PCMH outcome measures.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael T Corjulo APRN, CPNP, AE-C