



377 Research Parkway 2D
Meriden, CT 06450
203-238-1207
FAX (203) 238-3437
www.ctnurses.org

**TESTIMONY PROPOSED BILL NO: 768 AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE SCHOOL NURSE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 11, 2015

Good Day Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and esteemed members of the
Public Health Committee

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut
Nurses' Association (CNA) related **PROPOSED BILL NO: 768 AN ACT CONCERNING
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL NURSE ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations
Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association and professor emeritus from Central
Connecticut State University. I speak in strong support **PROPOSED BILL NO: 768 AN ACT
CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL NURSE ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

The School Nurse Advisory Councils recommendations represent a year of careful
review and thoughtful consideration, by qualified participants, of the issues facing a
group of providers in our School settings that are responsible for keeping our children
safe and healthy.

The School Nurse Advisory Council recommendations include: The requirement, that all new Connecticut school nurses complete the CSDE school nurse orientation program, within one year of hire. This is an additional requirement aimed at supplementing required professional development. Professional Continuing Education in Specialty areas is essential to the provision of safe, high quality care across the spectrum of care for school age children of care and a shared body of knowledge.

The School Nurse Advisory Council recommendation related to staffing is: (a) Each local or regional board of education shall (A) appoint one or more school nurses or nurse practitioners, and (B) maintain a staffing ratio of one school nurse or nurse practitioner for each seven hundred fifty students. A school nurse or nurse practitioner may provide services to one or more local or regional boards of education as long as such boards ensure that the staffing requirements prescribed in this subparagraph are met.

This recommendation does not take into consideration the health care needs, acuity of the school population being provided service in our school settings.

“Every district is to maintain a staffing ratio of qualified school nurses to students, consistent with the health care needs of its students, at a level of not less than one qualified school nurse to 750 students. Adequate staffing, based on the health needs of every student, is important to teachers, administrators, and parents. Adequate staffing recommendations’ from the National Association of School Nurses are attached for your review.

Therefore we ask you to support **PROPOSED BILL NO: 768 AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL NURSE ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

Thank You

Mary Jane M Williams PhD, RN

Chair Government Relations Committee, Connecticut Nurses Association

Professor Emeritus, CCSU