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Senator Terry Gerratana

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Members of the Public Health Committee

SB 293 AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL NURSE ADVISORY COUNCIL

As Co-chair of the School Nurse Advisory Council, I ask for your support on ***SB 293, An Act Concerning Recommendations of the School Nurse Advisory Council***. For the past 3 years, representatives from the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, Connecticut Nurses' Association, Connecticut Association of Health Care at Home, American Federation of Teachers, Connecticut, Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Federation of School Administrators and Connecticut Association of School Superintendents, and Departments of Public Health and Education have been meeting to discuss matters related to school nurses, school health and other matters.

The recommendations made for 2016 were thoughtfully considered during the development phase. The final recommendations are in consideration of the needs of school districts, school nurses and the children they serve. The recommendations, include rationale, were made with knowledge of the fiscal issues facing school districts.

Recommendations

1. **Committee Membership**- That the school nurse representative from ASNC to the Council be chosen from the general membership; not be limited to a private or parochial nurse. **Rationale:** It has been difficult recruiting and retaining a representative limited to a private or parochial nurse.
2. **Professional Development for School Nurses**- In addition to the professional development requirements specified by state regulation, all new Connecticut school nurses must complete the CSDE school nurse orientation program within one year of hire. **Rationale:** New school nurses frequently have little prior experience in a school setting. Professional development is necessary to function in an evolving educational environment.
3. **Delivery of Health Care Services by School Nurses and Other Matters That Affect School Nurses**- That all districts be required to participate in the CSDE's annual school health services survey. **Rationale:** This data is used to quantify and qualify the need for school health programs that support student access to their education and the educational environment. Included in the survey is data on concussions, reportable by state statute. The survey is the only mechanism to capture concussion data.

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The Council will continue to meet and submit future recommendations designed to improve the health and education of Connecticut's children. Members of the Council are dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to a professional school nurse at school every day based on the complexity of their health care needs and in consideration of the social determinants of health that impact their education.

Thank You.

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