

1999 HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION
HB 1345

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1345

House Finance and Taxation Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 8, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		19
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Jamie Stein</i>			

Minutes:

REP. BELTER Opened the hearing

REP. WANDA ROSE, DIST. 32, BISMARCK Introduced the bill. See written testimony.

She also presented amendments which had been prepared by the legislative council.

REP. BELTER Asked about a one cent tax which is a half a mill

REP. ROSE I tried to make it easy sometimes people don't understand how to convert one half mill into cents, this would generate approximately one cent per twenty pack of cigarettes.

REP. BELTER If we were to make the assumption that the anti tobacco movement is to be successful in this country, we would expect a decrease in the number of cigarettes sold, your whole program is based on cigarette sales staying at the same level, I find that to be somewhat of a conflict from what national policy is.

REP. ROSE That statement is true. I would be tickled pink if all of a sudden there would be no dollars for this program because the people stopped smoking. I don't believe that will occur. If the sales do decrease, then hopefully, we are doing a good job out there in the schools.

REP. HERBEL What kind of impact will this have on school districts that presently have nurses in school?

REP. ROSE Deferred the question.

PENNY WESTON, REPRESENTING THE NORTH DAKOTA NURSING ASSN. Appeared in support. Submitted testimony from a senior nursing student who participated in the project. See attached copy.

BETH REITEN-DUNLOP, MEMBER OF THE NORTH DAKOTA NURSES' ASSN.

Testified in support of the bill. See written testimony.

REP. FROELICH What are the requirements right now, to be a school nurse?

BETH DUNLOP I have a Bachelor and Science Degree, I am employed by the school district and I teach health careers.

REP. WINRICH Asked her to respond to the question Rep. Herbel asked regarding the impact of the legislation on school districts who already had school nurses.

BETH DUNLOP Referred to the Grand Forks district, who currently employ two registered nurses. She had Central High School and two middle schools, and the other one has Red River High School and two middle schools. They also have every grade school. Public Health cooperates with the school program. It wouldn't change my position. They could apply for repayment.

MERRY GLASER, PARENT OF A CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, Testified in support of the bill. See written testimony.

KATHY MACK, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE, Testified in support of the bill. See written testimony.

OWEN STOCKDILL, PRINCIPAL FORT LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MANDAN
Testified in support of the bill, See written testimony.

RON NESS, NORTH DAKOTA RETAIL ASSN. & PETROLEUM MARKETERS, Testified in opposition of the bill. Felt that in lieu of the tobacco settlement, and adding more and more taxes, where will it end. A pack of cigarettes has gone up 45 cents.

REP. WINRICH Almost invariably when this committee gets a bill without any funding source, the question comes up, how are we going to pay for it. This is one of the few bills which comes to us with a suggestion of how we pay for it, and you oppose that, since you do not oppose the school nursing program, how do you suggest we pay for it?

RON NESS I believe that is a question that is in the hands of the legislature and in the hands of the individuals who will distribute the tobacco settlement money, or another grant such as that. Consumers do pay the tax.

TOM WOODMANSEE, PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH DAKOTA GROCERY ASSN.

Testified in opposition of the concept of the bill. The tax part is not the problem, as we all know, it is a pass on to consumers. There are some things we need to take a look at. We are concerned about the fact that right now, our retailers are subject to sting operations, and we have many.

They don't need to go through that process of undercover, and also from the fact, of losing their license. If we continue, and hope to get to a tobacco free North Dakota, what happens to the

program? It is a good program and should be funded through the budget process, or through the tobacco settlement. I just received information on the amount of black market tobacco products coming across the country. They are four to six dollars per carton less, because of where they are coming from. If that continues to happen, this program could get started and then see the funding decrease.

JESS COOPER, GREATER NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION, Appeared in opposition of the bill.

BILL DEMAREE, PRINCIPAL OF JEANETTE MYHRE, Testified in support of the bill.

Related to Y2K. Felt the schools should also get ready for Y2K, by adding a nurses program.

They do have some funding from the Burleigh County City Nursing Program. He stated North

Dakota is number two out of the number of both parents working. Eighty three percent of the

children in school have both of their parents working. Nation-wide, sixty six percent have both

parents working. When parents are at work and kids are in school, we need somebody with

medical experience in school.

DEBRA BENDISH, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, FORT LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL, MANDAN, Testified in support of the bill. See written testimony.

LORNA VAN DE STREEK, PRINCIPAL, MINOT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Testified in support of

the bill. See written testimony.

MARY KAY HERMAN, DIRECTOR OF FARGO PUBLIC HEALTH, Testified in support of

the bill. Submitted written testimony by Nancy Leith, Nursing Manager of Fargo Cass Public

Health. See written testimony.

ROXANNE BOSSERT, PARENT, Testified in support of the bill. Related to several experiences which her child had in school when he had seizures. There is a need for school nurses.

PAULA FLANDERS, DIRECTOR OF BISMARCK BURLEIGH NURSING SERVICE,
Testified in support of the bill. See written testimony.

LINDA REICHT, SCHOOL NURSE, MINOT, Testified in support of the bill. See written testimony.

NANCY SAND, NORTH DAKOTA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, Appeared in support of the bill.

VIVIAN SCHAFER, CHILDREN'S CAUCUS, Appeared in support. See written testimony.

SISTER MARGARET ROSE PFEIFER, HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE FOR THE NORTH DAKOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE, Testified in support of the bill. See written testimony.

Many people submitted written testimony in support of the bill. See attached copies.

With no further testimony, the hearing was closed.

COMMITTEE ACTION 2-9-99, Tape #1, Side A, Meter #15.5

REP. CLARK Made a motion to adopt the amendments submitted.

REP. WINRICH Second the motion. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion was held on the pros and cons of the bill. Some of the committee members felt that a tax should not be placed on one company or product, that it was a community issue. Other members felt that it may stop people from smoking. Several members felt it is wrong to dedicate money for a cause by taxing a product.

REP. GROSZ Made a motion for a DO NOT PASS AS AMENDED.

REP. GRANDE Second the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

10 Yes 5 No 0 Absent.

REP. CLARK Was given the floor assignment.

FISCAL NOTE

Return original and 14 copies)

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1345

Amendment to: _____

Requested by Legislative Council

Date of Request: 1/14/99

1. Please estimate the fiscal impact (in dollar amounts) of the above measure for state general or special funds, counties, cities, and school districts. Please provide breakdowns, if appropriate, showing salaries and wages, operating expenses, equipment, or other details to assist in the budget process. In a word processing format, add lines or space as needed or attach a supplemental sheet to adequately address the fiscal impact of the measure.

Narrative: If enacted, HB 1345 is expected to increase revenues deposited in the school nursing grant fund as shown below:

2. **State fiscal effect in dollar amounts:**

	1997-99 Biennium		1999-2001 Biennium		2001-03 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				+\$1 million		
Expenditures						

3. What, if any, is the effect of this measure on the budget for your agency or department:

- a. For rest of 1997-99 biennium: _____
(Indicate the portion of this amount included in the 1999-2001 executive budget:)
- b. For the 1999-2001 biennium: _____
(Indicate the portion of this amount included in the 1999-2001 executive budget:)
- c. For the 2001-03 biennium: _____

4. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect in dollar amounts:**

1997-99 Biennium			1999-2001 Biennium			2001-03 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

If additional space is needed
attach a supplemental sheet.

Signed: *Kathryn L. Strombeck*

Typed Name: Kathryn L. Strombeck

Department: Tax

Date Prepared: January 18, 1999

Phone Number: 328-3402

Please type or use black pen to complete

Date 2-9-99
Roll call vote # 1

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1345

House HOUSE FINANCE & TAX Committee

Subcommittee on _____

Conference Committee

} Identify or check where appropriate

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Not Pass as amended

Motion Made By Rep. Grosz Seconded By Rep. Grande

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
BELTER	✓		WINRICH		✓
RENNERFELDT	✓				
CLARK	✓				
FROELICH		✓			
GRANDE	✓				
GROSZ	✓				
HERBEL	✓				
KROEBER		✓			
MICKELSON	✓				
NICHOLAS	✓				
RENNER	✓				
SCHMIDT		✓			
WARNER		✓			
WIKENHEISER	✓				

Total 10 5
(Yes) (No)

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Clark

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

DO NOT USE HIGHLIGHTER ON ANY FORMS

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1345: Finance and Taxation Committee (Rep. Belter, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO NOT PASS** (10 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1345 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 19, after "fund" insert ". The school nursing grant fund may be appropriated for grants for school nursing projects that are in compliance with sections 15-47-49 and 15-47-50"

Page 1, line 23, replace "school districts" with "public health units" and after "projects" insert "that develop agreements with schools or school districts"

Page 1, line 24, replace "school district" with "public health unit"

Page 2, line 3, replace "school district" with "public health unit"

Renumber accordingly

**1999 TESTIMONY
HB 1345**

Testimony on HB 1345
House Finance and Tax
February 8, 1999

By
Representative Wanda Rose, District 32

Chairman Belter and Members of the House Finance and Tax Committee.
For the record I am Wanda Rose Representative from District 32, Bismarck.

I am testifying in favor of HB 1345 which is a bill to help fund the delivery of school nursing services.

During the 1993-1994 interim the Budget Committee on Youth Services retained the Child Welfare League of America, a 75 year old non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. to conduct a study on the well-being of North Dakota's children. A recommendation made to the interim committee by Dr. Michael Petit was to enact policy utilizing schools as host sites for social and health services stating " Many children are not receiving timely health care or social services. Problems which are preventable may not be detected early when helpful intervention is easiest and least expensive ." The means to this end is to have public health nurses be placed in all schools and should serve as a principal means for improving services to children and families.

In the 1995 and 1997 legislative session bills were introduced to fund school nursing. Each bill was defeated due to lack of general fund dollars. There was much testimony on the positive outcome of having school nurses. The barrier was funding.

HB 1345 will develop a school nursing grant fund without using general fund dollars. If passed a 1 cent tax would be placed on a common pack of 20 cigarettes. Approximately 1 Million dollars will be generated in a biennium.

How will this bill be implemented if passed?

The generated funds will be placed in the state health department budget for the purpose of providing matching grants to those programs which have been developed jointly by local health units and local school districts or schools.

The local health units and schools will need to match the dollars requested from the school nursing grant fund.

This bill retains local control between the school and local health unit. The school and local health units will develop a proposal that will address the unique needs of the school or school district.

The positive side of HB 1345 is a partnership and an ownership of the program will exist between the schools and local health units which desire to have a school nursing program.

This is not a mandate requiring schools to provide school nursing. Rather an opportunity for schools and local health units to develop a partnership.

I urge your support of HB 1345.

HB 1345

Penny Weston

I am Richelle Harris, a senior nursing student at the University of Mary. I spent approximately 55 hours involved in giving medical assistance to children in two elementary schools within the Mandan-Bismarck area. I received this opportunity to work with the schools through community clinical hours at the University of Mary.

I support the Bill #1345 on school nursing. I want you to support this bill related to the following situations I observed in the 55 hours of providing assistance. Secretaries are administering narcotics to children on a daily basis without knowing the serious side effects. Ritalin, a commonly used drug has the following side effects: high blood pressure, increased heart rate, anorexia, tremors, plus the addition of caffeine can increase the effectiveness of the many CNS (central nervous system) medications. Secretaries are not trained to watch of side effects of medications. Should medication administration be their job?

I observed in two schools unlocked bins of medications sitting on the counter behind the secretaries desk available to anyone who walked through the office. Children were given medication on the other side of the counter, but one day a child was allowed to get their own medication. It makes me wonder, is that child taking his prescribed medication or someone else's? Is the child even taking the medication. Children at another school were observed hiding the medication within their mouth and removing the medication when outside the view of the secretary.

While providing nursing services through Custer District Health Unit at the Ft. Lincoln school, I witnessed a child who had open sores on his/her head from head lice being so severe. The child stated, "I don't have lice, I have had these sores for a month", the child had lice so bad that the sores were from the intense itching related to head lice. Teachers were not aware that long term head lice could cause itching so severe to cause open sores such as this child had at that time. With the training that I have had I was able to make the observation by assessing and asking questions related to head lice. After the determination was made the child had to leave school for treatment. When the child was

told about the head lice, the child began to cry, in which, I was able to implement therapeutic communication for the child to cope with the emotional aspect of head lice. At this time the school counselor was not available for the child to speak with because the counselor was teaching a class.

At an elementary school in Bismarck a child had a bloody nose related to a playground accident. This child was hit the nose by a wheel chair swing on the playground. The child had the bleeding stopped by applying pressure to the bridge of the nose. The child arrived in the secretaries office where I was looking a medication administration process. The secretary told the child to blow their nose to "get the junk out". I told the secretary that blowing the nose could cause the clot to break loose and start the bleeding again. I recommended that the child should wipe the nose and not to blow their nose. The secretary told me, "I tell the children all the time to blow their noses to get the junk out of there," and I tried to explain to her the reason for not blowing the nose after a nose bleed, to no avail. The school system has no documentation on how often injuries occur, what the causes are to the injuries, or how the injury was treated.

I believe that school nurses are needed to provide:

- 1.) Education in services to teachers and administrators on a routine basis.
- 2.) Assess environmental issues related to the health of the children.
- 3.) Implement adequate administration and monitoring of medications to the children.
- 4.) Prevention-teaching for common childhood health problems.
- 5.) Implement crisis management and interventions for children.
- 6.) Evaluation of injuries and medical complications for further medical interventions.

Beth Reiten-Dunlop, RN, BSN, MA; School Nurse
2119 South 36th Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Mr. Chairman and committee members, my name is Beth Reiten-Dunlop, a registered nurse serving three schools in the Grand Forks school district. As a member of the North Dakota Nurses' Association and Co-Chair of the North Dakota School Nurses' Group, I am here to testify in **support of HB 1345**.

The purpose of school nursing is to support the educational process by contributing positively and significantly to the health, health attitudes, and health behaviors of today's children and, consequently, tomorrow's adults. **School nurses strengthen and facilitate the educational process by identifying, modifying or removing health related barriers thereby maximizing learning potential.** HB 1345 will assure North Dakota's school age children have access to school nursing services as determined at the local level.

I provide nursing services to approximately 2000 secondary and middle school students and respective staff; seeing approximately 40 students a day. As a school nurse, I provide health assessments and interventions for such issues as acute illness, injury, contagious disease, discomfort and pain, and other health impairments that may affect attendance, performance, and participation. I administer medications and perform complex medical treatments such as catheterizations. Outside of the student's friends, it is usually I who will be the first to know that a student is smoking and immediately begin interventions to encourage the student to stop!

As a school nurse, I provide health consultations to students, parents, teachers, and am a vital liaison between the medical and school communities. For instance, a student may be newly diagnosed with a particular condition and the physician and/or parent requests that I monitor and intervene as necessary. I provide valuable information so the physician can better determine the nature of the situation presented for diagnosis. I participate in Individual Education Plans (IEP's), develop emergency plans of care, conduct home visits, facilitate referrals for appropriate care, and provide consultation and

Beth Reiten-Dunlop, RN, BSN, MA; School Nurse
2119 South 36th Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201

interventions related to mental health conditions. For example, I develop the health plan for the student with an IEP so the student's medical condition will not impede the learning process. These have been conditions such as Sickle Cell Anemia, cancer, hemophilia, and seizures. I develop emergency plans of care for the students with peanut allergies, anaphylactic reactions to bee stings, asthma exacerbation, insulin reactions, Hepatitis B, etc. I also develop plans and provide interventions for students with school phobias, panic attacks, and depression. Facilitating referrals for appropriate care has been for such things as dental care, eye exams and glasses, and medical care.

As a school nurse, I also provide health education to students and staff. Subjects range from universal precautions, asthma, diabetes, hepatitis, hygiene, puberty issues, the Heimlich maneuver, seizures, and the list goes on. Educational interventions may vary from individual instruction to class room instruction on specific topics as requested by the instructor. For example, I work with students with asthma to assure proper use of inhalers. I educate and advocate for the student with instructors so they understand why a student can have an asthma exacerbation and be better after treatment and why certain times are worse than others. I educate classmates and instructors concerning why a student needs to eat snacks in class or have water in class because of their medical condition.

My intent has been to provide you with some insight as to the value of a school nurse in the educational process of today's children. HB 1345 will provide funding so all our students can have access to school nursing that will strengthen and facilitate their educational process by identifying, modifying or removing health related barriers thereby maximizing their learning potential. Mr. Chairman, committee members, **I urge a do pass on HB 1345.** I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Finance and Taxation Committee
Rep. Belter, Chairman

HOUSE BILL NO. 1345

Chairman Belter, Members of the Committee:

My name is Merry Glaser, and I am a parent of a child with special needs. I am here today to urge you to vote yes for House Bill No. 1345.

My son is a 4th grader at Ft. Lincoln School in Mandan. Because of his disability of Autism he needs to take two different prescription medicines three times a day at four hour intervals, which means he must take his noon dose at school. When we moved here three years ago, I could not believe that one of the responsibilities of the school secretary was to be in charge of prescription medicines, given to the students and also taking care of injuries from scrapes, bumps, to bloody noses and fevers. These responsibilities were in addition to the other responsibilities a school secretary is hired to do.

I have lived in 4 others states and all of them have school nurses on duty, in the schools. Taking care of sick and injured students and providing daily prescription medication is a huge responsibility for any one, especially if they are not trained in extensive first aid.

I am very concerned that with the secretary's hectic day she could accidentally give the wrong medicine to the wrong student or over dose or under dose a

student by accident. Ritalin, which is a controlled substance, highly regulated by the Federal Government is handed out daily by our untrained school secretaries. I am actually surprised that there have not been any law suits because a child was not given the correct medical attention at school. Because, Fort Lincoln now has a nurse, at least during the students lunch time, I feel less anxious about my son taking his noon medications

Another concern is the potential of transmission of blood born pathogens. These are diseases that are contracted thorough blood. Parents are not required to disclose to the school that they have a child with a blood born pathogen illness. Such illnesses are HIV, Aids, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, to name a few. North Dakota may not have a huge population but we are not immune to these diseases. We live in a very mobile society with people moving in and out of the state all the time. These diseases are here in North Dakota. Having school nurses would help insure that students are given the proper medical care and that secretaries, teachers, other school personnel and students are not exposed to these silent killers. An example of how a person could contract a blood born pathogen would be if a student had a bloody nose and the teacher takes care to the student her self. The nose is bleeding profusely and she doesn't want to get blood all over the floor or her books so she holds the child nose to stop the flow without using rubber gloves. A paper cut on her hand or any open wound on her hand comes in contact with the blood and she could become infected with a serious illness. She might not have disinfected the blood splatter leaving a time bomb for others.

Hepatitis C is a blood born pathogen and the medical profession did not have a test to detect it until 1991. A person having a blood exchange or blood

transfusion before 1991 could have this progressive liver disease without even knowing it. In fact the majority of people infected do not know they are. So potentially a teacher or a secretary could give the blood born pathogen illness to a student without even knowing it, if they do not use the proper medical precaution. Having school nurses in our schools would ensure our children and school personnel are protected from this growing crisis.

Chairmen Belter , members of the committee I ask for a yes vote for this bill to keep our children and school personnel safe!

Thank you for giving me this time to testify. I will try to answer any questions you may have.

Testimony
on
HB 1345
to provide an appropriation for school nursing project grants
before the house finance and taxation committee
by
Kathy Mack, RN, Grand Forks Public Health Department

Mr. Chairman and committee members, my name is Kathy Mack, I am a public health nurse serving six elementary schools in the Grand Forks area. I am here today to testify in support of HB 1345.

The Grand Forks Public Health Department has had a comprehensive school-nursing program since 1997. This was made possible through a flood recovery grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Three full-time registered nurses were hired to work in the elementary schools in Grand Forks. This grant will expire in May of 2000. This collaborative effort between public health, schools, and a private foundation has been successful in meeting students' health care needs, and should be continued.

Health services delivered by school nurses include, case management of children with chronic illnesses, health appraisals, and assisting children with special health care needs. School screenings are conducted for vision and scoliosis. Other services provided are immunizations, home visits, student health counseling, and emergency care. School nurses provide educational programs on topics such as asthma and diabetes management, disease prevention, hygiene, puberty, safety, and healthy lifestyle choices including avoidance of tobacco, drugs and alcohol.

School personnel address most students' health care needs in North Dakota at this time. I have been made aware that medication errors such as giving the wrong medication to the wrong child have occurred. As you can see, this compromises the quality of care. Non-medical personnel may not properly assess students with chronic and acute medical conditions nor do they want to. My role as a school nurse includes educating school personnel on how to handle and care for children with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, asthma, and cystic fibrosis in the classroom.

Public Health Departments in North Dakota provide limited school nursing services on shrinking budgets. About 63 nurses currently provide a small percentage of their time towards health services in North Dakota schools. North Dakota's 543 schools have more than 125,000 students. The National Association of School Nurses recommends one nurse for every 750 students. The goal of the North Dakota School Health Program is to have a nurse available for every 1,000 students as determined at the local level.

The Grand Forks Public Health Department supports school nursing for all children in North Dakota. House Bill 1345, a bill to provide an appropriation for school nursing would ensure that all children in North Dakota have access to a school nurse. This bill would provide the necessary funding to provide this essential program.

This completes my testimony. I would be happy to respond to any questions regarding school nursing at this time.

Legislative Testimony
House Bill NO. 1345
Owen Stockdill / Principal
Ft. Lincoln Elem./ Mandan ND

My testimony today will focus on three issues. First, the roots of our school nursing program. Secondly, the educational benefits that our school nursing program has brought to us. Finally, the wide - spread acceptance and support for the continuation of the program.

The advent of the Fort Lincoln “Nursing Pilot Program” developed through our school’s accreditation process. In that process, we as a school community (teachers, support staff, students, parents, and administrators) analyze school strengths and areas in need of improvement. Input from these groups indicated that Health should be designated as a Target area for improvement. A key area designated in health was the need to improve the area of health services delivered to students. Custer District Health was instrumental in helping us receive funding through grants for our first year.

Our school nurse, in conjunction with senior nursing students from Med - Center One's School of Nursing and the University of Mary's School of Nursing have greatly enhanced our student's and staff's understanding and awareness of key health issues. We have had presentations on public health issues that have helped us to better understand things such as head lice and how they are spread and treated. The Nursing staff have checked 306 students in classrooms and 20 office checks for head lice through the month of December. General health issues have been addressed through having our students take part in "hand washing" demonstrations. Proper hand washing is known to be a major step in the prevention of colds, the flu, etc. Our school nursing program has also provided our students information that will help them make "the right choice" in the area of inhalants. Students in our 5th and 6th grade rooms were provided with accurate medical information about the effects that inhalants have on people.

Our school nurse has been a valuable resource for our entire staff. She has made herself available for four full staff meetings to discuss health related issues.

An upcoming training that will be presented is the proper use and functions of “Epi-pens”. She has also been able to aide our staff in making health related decisions for students as a consultant.

Our school nursing program is also the driving force behind the organization of our upcoming School Health Fair that will be held at Fort Lincoln on February 18. Please feel welcome to join us during that day to view the interactive booths as well as displays that relate to improving our overall health.

Our school community has shown wide support for the Nursing program. Parents are made aware of “health related issues” monthly through our Nurses Corner in our Monthly Newsletter. Examples of communications include proper dental care, head lice awareness, safety reminders related to Halloween, and tips on the proper use of safety belts. Our school PTO executive committee has “Whole

Heartedly” endorsed the program. This is evident through their commitment to ask the PTO General Assembly to approve \$3000.00 of financial support for partial maintenance of the program for next year. Our PTO president has authored a letter of support for the program to our Board of Education’s “Personnel Committee.

In closing, I find the concept of “School Nursing” to be an excellent way to further develop a positive, nurturing, and safe environment for all our students. I see it as being a major contributor in helping our students reach their academic potential. We all have had a day when we as adults aren’t feeling well, its extremely hard for us to concentrate and be at our best. Our students are no different. With school nurses, we can provide the needed immediate “professional” intervention and help our students continue to work towards their short term goals of classroom success and their long term goals of personal fulfillment.

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
HOUSE BILL NO. 1345
DEBRA BENDISH/ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
FT. LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

When I said I would do anything to keep our school nurse I didn't think I would be standing in front of a Legislative Committee. I have been an administrative secretary for the past nine years and for eight of those years I have had to administer medications, assess injuries, and make some calls I was uneasy with. My educational background is Secretarial not medical. I did not receive any training with dispensing medications until the pilot nursing program was put in place this year. Before, I would be dispensing medications, answering the phone and trying to sell lunch tickets or other office duties all at the same time. When doing that many tasks there is a lot of room for error. With the school nurse in place he/she can concentrate on the importance of properly dispensing the medication. Having the nursing staff available has also been a benefit to teachers. Instead of taking

teaching time away from their students to deal with sickness or injuries, they are able to have the nurse help the children. I feel the children benefit from having a trained nurse on hand. The nursing staff are able to help the students and parents so we can get them healthy and back to learning as soon as possible. Please take a moment to look at the figures that have been compiled since the first four months of the program.

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
TOTAL SEEN	675	538	632	751	2596
PRESCRIPTIONS	484	440	414	415	1753
ACCIDENTS	96	52	29	56	233
GENERAL	92	44	70	69	275

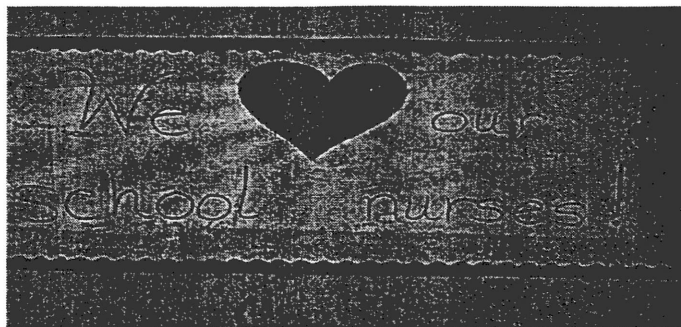
PRESCRIPTIONS = AVERAGE 25 STUDENTS
 ACCIDENTS = CUTS-FALLS-NOSE BLEEDS-ETC.
 GENERAL = PINK EYE-RASH-HEADACHE-
 STOMACH ACHE-ETC.

On an average 650 students are seen each month with a school population of approximately 475 students.

Without a nurse I would have to treat all of these myself. Let me ask you ladies and gentlemen if you think this is appropriate for a secretary?

I am not the only person supporting the nursing program; parents have commented on how relieved they are knowing a trained individual is administering medications and first aide to their children. Screening provided by school nurses has minimized students absences in cases where parents were unsure if thier child needed to be seen by a physician. This helps us reach our goal to keep kids healthy and in school as much as possible.

In closing, I would like to remind you that the ultimate **WINNERS** in passage of this bill are the **CHILDREN!!** Thank you.



NORTH HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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February 8, 1999

To: The Finance and Taxation Standing Committee
From: Lorna Van de Streek

I must admit I was a skeptic. When Dr. Sanstead asked Minot Public Schools to be a pilot project in developing a School Based Integrated Services Project in three target schools and that school nurses were to be an integral part of this project I wondered. What would school nurses do besides pass out medication and take care of accidents or sick children?

Have I had my eyes opened. Our nurse, Linda Wright, has become an integral part of our school staff. The quality of care our children receive from her is not measurable.

She is an important member of educational planning teams as we determine the best plan for a child. And then there is the rapport she has developed with our children. I know of no other place than our Health Room at North Hill where children aren't afraid to get a shot. This poster is an indication of the high quality of esteem in which she is held.

Our school has many special programs for children including:

- Seriously Emotionally Disturbed resource room;
- Seriously Emotionally Disturbed transition resource room;
- Preschool handicapped room;
- Educationally Mentally Handicapped resource room;
- speech/language services;
- learning disabilities services;
- Title 1 - reading and math enhancement;
- Title 9 - Native American tutoring services;
- Safe and Drug Free Schools tutoring services.

Often when children are in these programs they have medical issues which need to be monitored. In addition, we have a number of medically challenged children. As we work with children who are medically needy our school nurse has the knowledge and ability to observe children and provide valuable input to the doctors and school staff. One day she noticed the lips of a child were turning blue. He was in dire need of his inhaler. Would other school staff have noticed this? maybe but maybe not until it was too late.

I am not qualified to deal with a child who is going into a diabetic coma or a child who is having an asthma attack and cannot breathe. Have I done it in the past, yes, is it what is best for kids, no.

As our society becomes more and more health conscious; we need to help our children do the same. Our school nurse does classroom presentations, staff inservices, and is a resource for all of us with health related questions.

Educators are being asked and expected to do more all the time; we can't do it alone. Please help us provide the best for the children of North Dakota and support House Bill 1345.

Thank you for your time, if you have any questions I would be happy to answer them.



**NORTH DAKOTA HOUSE
FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 8, 1999**

Chairman Belter and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee.

My name is Nancy Leith and I am from Fargo. I am a Registered Nurse employed at Fargo Cass Public Health as a Nursing Manager. The City of Fargo and I are in favor of HB1345 because all children should have access to obtaining optimal health. We know that healthy children will be better learners. Therefore, by providing all children with access to a professional nurse this will allow all school aged children to reach their optimal health status.

North Dakota is the last state to have organized school nursing services. There are a variety of approaches to school nursing used in the state, but I will only address the program that we use in Fargo. Our program began during the school year 1994-1995 and fortunately each year we have been able to expand our services through funding from local foundations, the city, and the school district. We continue to have concerns related to long term funding of the program. The current grant funding sources have also been asking us about the long term plan for funding.

Initially collaborative efforts involved our local Board of Health and the Fargo School Board. These boards determined that we had a joint responsibility to serve school children in the community. As a local commissioner once said "A child does not cease to be a student when he goes out the school door, nor does he cease to be a citizen when he enters it." As public health school nurses we use the core functions of public health; which include assessment, policy development, and assurance. These core functions involve not only the individual but the WHOLE community. A community can be defined as the individual, the school linkage, the neighborhood, and the family involvement.

The school nursing services have three main goals.

1. Strengthen and facilitate the educational process by identifying, modifying, or removing health related barriers thereby maximizing learning potential.
2. All students and families will have access to a range of services to promote and maintain optimal health and well-being of students and families.
3. Medications and treatments required during school hours will be delivered under professional nursing supervision.

The Fargo Public School District has 11,740 students divided among 20 school sites. Of this total, approximately 550 children are in the English as a Second Language Program (ESL). These ESL students come with potentially more complex health and social environmental problems, plus the obvious of language barriers. All of which the school nurse can help address.

The mission of Fargo Cass Public Health is to assure a healthy community for all people through on-going assessment, education, advocacy, intervention, prevention, and collaboration.

The current school nursing budget is \$209,350:

- ◆ 37.2% is from Fargo Cass Public Health
- ◆ 36.5% is from local grant funding (Region V Children's Services Coordinating Committee and Dakota Medical Foundation)
- ◆ and 26.3% from the Fargo Public Schools.

This is 38 hours per day of RN time; which can be broken down to 18 hours in the elementary, 14 hours in the junior high, and six hours in the high schools. Some of the activities that the RN does include:

- ◆ providing assessment for acute and chronic health illness, accidents, injuries, truancy issues, discomfort, or pain
- ◆ individual health consultation with students, parents, or staff, which includes the individual health plans, emergency care plans, home visits and mental health issues
- ◆ medication administration of scheduled medications, or immunizations
- ◆ communicable disease control related to head lice, immunizations, or scabies
- ◆ screenings such as vision, hearing, or scoliosis
- ◆ referral to community resources and follow up
- ◆ providing education to students, staff, or parents on seizures, asthma, puberty, hygiene, smoking, universal precautions, or hand washing

Through our experience, we have found some common problems for all Fargo students that encompass neglect; inadequate nutrition and hunger; asthma and allergies; Attention Deficit Disorder, and Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder.

The funding also allows for 28 hours per day of LPN or Trained Medication Aide time, which is 20 hours in the elementary, and eight hours in the junior high. Some of the activities include:

- ◆ medication administration under RN supervision
- ◆ first aid
- ◆ delegation of specific nursing task as instructed per the RN; i.e. chest percussion, or monitoring of blood sugars

A portion of this grant funding allows us to have a RN seven hours per day and a medication aide two to three hours per day at a junior high school with a population of 1,114 students. This school was chosen because the nurse per student ratio recommended is one nurse per 1,000 students. We are currently in the third year of this grant funding. A typical school day could involve 35 to 45 students for health complaints, 70 to 80 students for medications, five staff with health related questions, numerous telephone calls to parents, and nursing required documentation.

We also have a new pilot project this year, again funded through Region V Children's Services Coordinating Committee. This allows a RN to be in the Casselton and Kindred School Districts for 28 hours per week.

In summary, the school nursing services should not be dependent on grant funding, but rather have specified funds to provide for school nursing services. This would then assure that all children would be able to access nursing services to reach their optimal health status.

TESTIMONY

HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 1345

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Paula Flanders. I am the Director of Bismarck Burleigh Nursing Service and am speaking on behalf of myself as a professional in support of school health nursing and public health. As the Bismarck City Commission meets on Tuesday, I have not had the opportunity to ask their opinion on this bill. However, I know they support school nursing as Bismarck Burleigh Nursing Service currently provides limited services in ten county and five city public elementary schools. House Bill 1345 would ensure all children in North Dakota have access to a school nurse.

Twenty years ago all children in school in the City of Bismarck and in Burleigh County had access to a school nurse. With funding cutbacks in the county and in public education, school nurse service was cut in all elementary and secondary schools in the City of Bismarck and greatly decreased in the county schools. Five years ago Bismarck Burleigh Nursing Service allocated a portion of our Maternal Child Health Block Grant to provide limited service of four hours a week to one public elementary school in Bismarck. Three additional public elementary schools were added in the next three years. This year Bismarck Burleigh Nursing Service applied for and received a North Dakota State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI) Grant to provide services in one additional school for four hours, one day a week for nine months. Mr. Demeree, Principle at Jeannette Myhre Elementary School contracts with Bismarck Burleigh Nursing Service for an additional four hours of nursing service each week in order to provide daily school nurse service at his school.

There are 16 public and 6 private elementary schools in the City of Bismarck. There are an additional 10 public schools outside of the city limits within Burleigh County. Bismarck Burleigh Nursing Service provides minimal nursing service to 246 kindergarten through eighth

grade students in the ten county schools through once a month visits to each school. Bismarck Burleigh Nursing Service spends four hours in each of four Bismarck public elementary schools, serving 879 students. In addition, through our efforts of providing four hours of nursing service two days a week, and the services provided three days a week from students of the University of Mary nursing students, 435 public elementary students in the City of Bismarck receive daily nursing services. This leaves 3334 public elementary students in the City of Bismarck alone with no nursing services. These numbers do not include the Bismarck parochial elementary schools, the middle schools or the high schools.

The goal of school nursing is to promote and maintain the health of our school communities. In 1992 the National Health and Education Consortium reported, "research demonstrates physical and psychosocial health have a direct impact on children's abilities to succeed academically and socially in the school environment." We all know the old adage; an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That is what school nursing can do, save the state money. House Bill 1345 would create a consistent source of state appropriated funds making school nursing available for all of the children in our state.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you might have.

Finance and Taxation Committee:

Wes Belter	Rod Froelich
Earl Rennerfeldt	Joe Kroeber
Bryon Clark	Arlo Schmidt
Bette Grande	John Warner
Mick Grosz	Lonny Winrich
Gil Herbal	
Stacey Mickelson	
Gene Nicholas	
Dennis Renner	
Ray Wikenheiser	

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda Wright. I am a lifelong resident of North Dakota. I have two children. My husband is a farmer and I am a Registered Nurse. I have been employed by First District Health Unit in Minot for 20 years. I am here today to provide you with information about school nursing. Four years ago, as part of a pilot project, the First District Health Unit assigned two Registered Nurses (Marsha Fitterer, Rn and I) to provide public health nursing services in three schools in Minot. I was assigned to North Hill Elementary School which has an enrollment of 330 students. North Hill includes grades K-6, a pre-school classroom for children with special needs, a classroom for Educable Mentally Handicapped students, and two classrooms for students who are Severely Emotionally Disturbed. I am in the school everyday from 8:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

Medication administration is one of my responsibilities. About 20 students receive medications once or twice a day. Some of the medications that are given in this elementary school include; stimulants used to treat Attention Deficit Disorder (Ritalin, Dexedrine and Cylert), antihypertensive used to treat combative behavior (Clonidine), anticonvulsants sometimes used to treat seizures but more often used for mood stabilizing effect (Depakote and Neurontin), antidepressants (Wellbutrin, Imipramine and Nortriptyline), and antipsychotics (Risperdal, Lithium and Seroquel).

Three students at North Hill have diabetes. Scheduled blood sugars are done daily before lunch or twice a week as directed by the parents. One of the students receives insulin injections at school according to the results of blood sugars. Blood sugars are also done on an as needed basis when hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) is suspected. Hypoglycemia can quickly become an emergency situation and must be treated immediately. I have had blood sugar readings as low as 30, but with prompt treatment the students condition improved and they were able to remain in school.

Monitoring the immunization status of the students is also my responsibility. In 1994, the first year North Hill had a nurse, 60 students did not have the required immunizations. This year after a concentrated effort that included administering immunizations at school, providing transportation to school for a parent and a contest for the students, 99% of the North Hill students are in compliance with the North Dakota immunization law (North Dakota Century Code 23-07).

In my four years at North Hill School , I have encountered students with a wide array of conditions including; Tourette's Syndrome (rare disease characterized by uncontrollable ticks and verbalization), Tuberous Sclerosis (genetic condition causing growths in the brain or other vital organs), Asphyxiating Thoracic Dystrophy (reduced rib cage capacity causing the lungs not to have enough room to breathe), Congenital Glaucoma,

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder, Down Syndrome, Autism and Bi-Polar Disorder. Any of these conditions can create challenging situations for the child, parent, teacher and nurse.

North Dakota, South Carolina and Hawaii are the only three states that do not have organized school nursing. In 1995 the Office of School Health at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center conducted a survey of school districts nationwide. They found the ratio of school nurses to students ranged from 1 to 486 in New Hampshire to 1 to 10,814 in Tennessee. New Hampshire had the most favorable child well-being index and Tennessee the least favorable. Children appear to be better off in states in which school nurses are most plentiful. (Journal of School Nursing 11(3)12-18, October 1995)

I hope you will find this information helpful in making your legislative decisions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Wright, RN". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Linda Wright, RN

Statement of

Sandra Anseth, RN, BSN
MCH Division Director
North Dakota Department of Health

*Copy presented
Submitted after
Hearing*

H.B. No. 1345

Regarding

Rate of Tax on Sale of Cigarettes: To Provide an Appropriation for
School Nursing Project Grants

Before the

House Finance and Taxation Committee

February 8, 1999

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee. My name is Sandra Anseth. I am the Director of the Division of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) North Dakota Department of Health. H.B. 1345 provides for an additional ½ mill tax on the sale of each cigarette (sold in North Dakota) to fund school nursing programs.

The purpose of school nursing is to support the educational process by contributing positively and significantly to the health, health attitudes, and behaviors of today's children and consequently tomorrow's adult.

North Dakota does not currently have an organized School Nursing Program. The National Association of School Nurses recommends 1 nurse for every 750 students. The goal of the Maternal and Child Health Division and North Dakota Association of School Nurses is to have a nurse available for every 1,000 students. Currently there are 63 nurses providing health services in North Dakota schools. Not all of the 125,000 plus students received services of a school nurse. Of these nurses, at least 12 are working full-time as school nurses. The remaining nurses work part-time as school nurses and some of them are public health nurses who visit schools as infrequently as two or three times during the school year.

These school nurses may be funded by various sources. Some nurses are employed by the school district and others by local public health departments. Some agencies apply for various grant funds to support school nurses.

School nurses provide a wide range of health-related activities dependent upon the needs of the community. Nursing services may include first aid for injuries, assessment and treatment of minor illnesses, case management of chronic conditions (asthma, diabetes, seizures). School nurses also provide health promotion and education to teachers and support staff; assessment and intervention for mental health problems; and, provide more complicated health care procedures such as trachea care, catherization, etc. They also refer children with an infection or a strep throat to a clinic for care by a physician when such a referral is medically indicated. Children need to be healthy to learn and school nurses are just one component of a comprehensive school health plan.

* * *

The Department is pleased to provide this information about its school nurse program. Mr. Chairman, this completes my formal testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you or other members of the committee have regarding school nurse services.

Good Morning Rep. Belter and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee.

My name is Vivian I Schafer, Chairperson of Children's Caucus. Children's Caucus supports legislation that promotes safety, welfare, and the health of ND children. We have supported the school nurse concept in the past and support HB1345.

We feel that HB1345 is well written and addresses the concerns of past legislation.

HB1345 is not a mandate, but a grant program. This allows the local school district and local community to decide if they need a school nurse. The local health unit is the grantee and employer.

HB1345 allows the school district and community to write the job description for their own school nurse, thus addressing the needs within their own schools.

HB1345 is also an economic development issue as the school nurse will be employed in their local communities.

Knowing that children learn and function better when they are alert and healthy. Knowing that our schools serve special needs students that have profound medical needs. We ask your support on HB1345.

Thank you



Vivian I Schafer



*Representing the Diocese of Fargo
and the Diocese of Bismarck*

Christopher T. Dodson
Executive Director and
General Counsel

To: Members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee
From: Sister Margaret Rose Pfeifer, Health Care Advocate
Subject: HB1345
Date: February 8, 1999

Chairman Belter and committee members, I am Sister Margaret Rose Pfeifer, Health Care Advocate for the North Dakota Catholic Conference.

The North Dakota Catholic Conference supports HB 1345 with the proposed amendments.

This bill gives an opportunity for schools to benefit from having a nurse on their premises. This nurse would provide for some of the basic health care needs of the children, all children no matter their social status or economic condition. This serves a basic common good, health. Moreover it also serves the basic good of education. Access to a school nurse allows teachers to teach rather than addressing health needs that might arise during school hours. At the same time, it helps promote a health student body ready to be educated.

Each school would determine the range of health services it needs and apply to the public health unit for a grant. This stipulation allows the local educators and parents to determine what activities best fits their needs. Thus parents who are primarily responsible for the health of their children will participate in the determination of the health activities needed. The school nurse is not a school health clinic and thereby limited in the possible services.

It seems fitting that from a source which cause health problems, cigarettes, would become a means for providing children's health services.

With the amendments we can ensure that no nurse funded by this program will distribute contraceptives or counsel abortion.

Please support HB1345.

227 W. Broadway, Suite 2
Bismarck, ND 58501

223-2519
1-888-419-1237
FAX # (701) 223-6075

2-5-99

Please support House Bill 1345
as my son needs the school
nurse to give him his pill.
in school and if there is
not a nurse who will
be there to do that, I
would feel better knowing
there is someone like a
school nurse at north school
given my son his med,
and if my son get hurt
the nurse would be there.
So please support House Bill
1345. as our school nurse
is very much needed at
north Hill school very much
there are a lot of kid
who need here. thank you

Susan Pipher
a parent of North Hill
School.

Feb. 4, 1999

To Whom it may concern.

This is in regard to House Bill 1345:
dealing with funding for school nurses.

I strongly believe each and every school should have a school nurse. This person is a valuable asset. Not only does she give out medication, she helps out with the safety and welfare of our children.

Luckily my child has not been sick often, but she does have to take some medication. I feel very fortunate to have a person who is knowledgeable about the medicine and side effects it can cause.

If a child gets sick, the school nurse is again an asset to have in the building. She has the qualifications to know if certain symptoms together could mean something more serious.

School secretaries work very hard at their jobs. ~~It~~ They should not have nurses duties in their job descriptions. Not having a school nurse can take away many hours from the important job of a secretary.

In our school, there are many students on medication every day, several children with asthma and at least one diabetic. As a parent, I feel more comfortable

having a school nurse available to assist with any or all of these problems.

I have personally seen many schools in great detail and the nurse is needed. The school staff has a very big responsibility and we take a great deal of pride in doing the best we can. Not every member of staff is certified in First Aid or CPR, therefore a school nurse is a must.

Please seriously consider funding HOUSE BILL 1345 to keep school nurses. Without school nurses, we are taking a risk and the kids lose out.

North Hill has been very fortunate to have a very dedicated professional school nurse, as we were in the pilot program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim M. Hunt / Substitute Teacher and
Parent of North Hill Student

2007 California Dr.

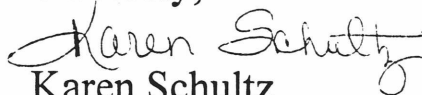
Minot, N. D. 58703

February 01, 1999

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of having a school nurse in the school system. My daughter is 7 years old and has been diabetic for the past two years. My husband and I are extremely thankful for having a school nurse available to her on a daily basis for the better part of the day. It gives us a great deal of comfort knowing that someone who is medically knowledgeable, is there to help in a time of need. Even just for the finger pricks on a daily basis, to have someone there who is able to distinguish whether there is a need for concern or further treatment, is a great comfort to us. My daughter has had a wonderful rapport with the nurse from the first day and has never complained about having to go down to check her blood, except for the times when the school nurse is not there! It is hard enough for a child to be in need and not have a parent available and even harder when you have a medical need and not have a parent, yet my daughter has such a calmer reaction to her needs having the nurse present. Not only because of my daughter's diabetes am I thankful to have a nurse on hand, but also for other needs such as the tummy aches, headaches, etc. In regards to my daughter's diabetes and any other child who is diabetic, this is a very serious disease which unfortunately can result in serious complications. Having a school nurse available to her in a time of need, truly could be the difference in a life or death situation. Need I say more?

Sincerely,



Karen Schultz

Parent of Kasey Jo Schultz

North Hill Elementary School

A letter regarding In School Nursing

To Whom it may Concern:

I believe that In School Nursing is a very valuable asset to our North Dakota school system. Personally, my 7 year old daughter sees the In School Nurse at North Hill School at least once a day. You see, my daughter has Diabetes and has to have her blood sugar checked before she eats her noon meal. Many times she sees the nurse more often, when she's not feeling well, when someone thinks she's not looking right, or when she needs someone to talk to that understands what she is going through. My daughter can see the nurse and the nurse will either take care of the situation or contact me for advice, this makes me feel very comfortable.

The In School Nurse takes a lot of the burden off the teachers also. Now a days, children are much more active, and with activity comes accidents. The teacher can rely on the nurse to treat individuals that have injuries instead of having to personally worry about it, especially with something like Diabetes. She/he is trained in such matters, and either knows how to take care of the children or knows where to get the information to take care of them. This allows the teacher to keep teaching, and therefore does not take away needed learning time from other children.

I grew up in a large city in Canada and always had an In School Nurse. I always liked the idea of if I got hurt I could see someone who was trained in the field. Many times it came in handy to have a registered nurse available.

I believe that if we do not have In School Nurses available, we are actually moving backwards instead of forwards. As I said before, I believe the In School Nurse is a very valuable asset to our North Dakota Schools.



Rob Miller

Randall L./Cindy F. Janssen
2512 9th St NW
Minot ND 58703-0723
701-852-0924

Feb 1999

Subject: Support of School Nurse Program

To Whom it may Concern:

This letter is being written to offer full support to the school nurse program of the State of North Dakota. We believe every school should have the funding available and have the opportunity to have a school nurse. We know that this is not a widely recognized or supported program but it is very much needed. I will give you our personal story & our need for this:

Our son Joshua (12) has the dual need for the nursing program:

1. Joshua has an prosthesis for his left leg.
2. Joshua is also a insulin dependant diabetic.

Being able to go to school with the security of knowing that if something was to happen to his leg, a qualified medical nurse is on staff not only makes Joshua feel more secure but also us. They may not be able to fix his prosthesis but knowing that if he was to fall and hit his head, damage his arm, twist his ankle or any different scenario someone qualified is there(a school nurse)to lend a hand.

Being 12 years old and a full fledged insulin dependant child is a scary enough disease at home all the time when your parents are around let alone in school. Joshua needs to check his blood 4 times a day morning, noon(during school hours), dinner and bed. During any of these times he may need insulin(if high) or need sugar(if low). How could this be accomplished in school without the help of the school nurse?? It would be very difficult...Joshua needs to have a blood machine, insulin, glucose tablets, sugar, juice, a emergency glycogen injection kit, to name a few things in school. Having a school nurse gives him someone to verify his readings, double check his injection if needed, and administer other medications if needed. And the most important is to be able to provide immediate first aid if he would pass-out for any reason. We have complete peace of mind during our busy workday knowing that there is a school nurse at our school, North Hill Elementary in Minot, ND.

For all parents being able to send your young child to school with medication for things as common as a cold and knowing they will get taken and the dosage will be correct would make any parent support this program. The school nursing program is not only good for students but also the other teachers in the things that can be taught such as First Aid.

So in short we are **FIRM** believers in the school nursing program. We are so happy to be able to have the luxury and would hope that someday it can be in every school in North Dakota.

Sincerely yours,


Randy and Cindy Janssen

February 2, 1999

Legislators:

Please support House Bill 1345, which provides appropriations for school nurses. Our school nurse is a vital part of our staff. I could not do my job without her. I teach in a kindergarten through third grade classroom for severely emotionally disturbed. These children are on numerous medications. It is a full-time job in and of itself to keep track of daily medications.

For example, our school nurse gathered information from a parent and determined the pharmacy had not given the medication which was prescribed; therefore the child was responding differently than the doctor wanted. In another instance, she was available when a child went into full body tremors as a side effect of the medication. She could immediately verify what we were seeing and call the doctor immediately with our concerns.

Educators are not trained in the medications and side effect of drugs given to students. It is invaluable to have a school nurse available to ask questions of, verify our concerns, and follow through with calls to doctors.

Please support House Bill 1345, we need school nurses more and more as the needs of our students increase.

Sincerely,
Molly Paszek
K-3 Transition Room
Minot Public Schools
Minot, North Dakota

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being written in support of school nurses. I have worked at North Hill School since 1987. My first four years were as playground supervisor at which time there was no school nurse. There were several times that we could have used the knowledge and skills of a nurse, and I feel we were very fortunate that we never had a situation that we were not able to handle. However, if you had one instance it would be one to many.

I am now the secretary of North Hill and I can't tell you enough what a relief it is having Linda Wright at our school. She has come to the aid of many children throughout the course of a day. She also dispenses the medication to the students which is a big responsibility. I personally don't feel comfortable handing out medication when I have not had any training on it. There again one mistake would be devastating. I feel the employees at our school feel comfort in having the expertise such as Linda in handling any medical problem that arises. We are very fortunate, and my wish would be that all schools would have this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Gwen K. Seidler

Gwen K. Seidler
Secretary, North Hill Elementary

North Hill School
2215 8th St. NW
Minot, ND 58701
February 2, 1999

To whom it may concern,

The health services provided at North Hill School by the First District Health Unit are very beneficial. In fact, the nursing/health care service is an essential component for the serious emotional disturbance (SED) program at North Hill School. The individualized education plan (IEP) for students with special needs includes the assessment of each child's present level of medical and physical functioning. The school RN regularly attends IEP meetings to input significant, helpful health and medical information. This information assists the IEP team in meeting the needs of each child. Many of the students in the SED program are prescribed medications which help control their behaviors. Consistent dosage administration is imperative in order to achieve effective, therapeutic results. The nursing/health care service provides consistent medication administration. It is greatly important to continue the provision of health services at North Hill School.

Sincerely,



John T. Berning- SED teacher

WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL NURSING:

Jane B., Counselor:

"The partnership between educational and medical services which school nursing facilitates is an effective means of promoting good health for our students. The school nurse brings an important perspective to our work with all students, particularly those who face academic and social challenges. Her knowledge and skills contribute to our efforts to endure that all students succeed."

Anna H., Teacher:

"I am 100% in favor of you. I have taught in schools with and without nurses. It is very much an advantage to have you in our schools. From the little scrapes, bloody noses etc. to major breaks etc. you people are so helpful. The other area, is that of cleanliness and general health. It is so nice to have someone to turn for support, and another resource for parents also.

Can I say more?

WE LOVE OUR SCHOOL NURSES!!!"

Nita D., Teacher:

"I think the school nurse is an asset to our school. We have many students on medications and it is important to have a nurse administer them. Otherwise, the school secretary is also trying to answer the phone and address people who come in with concerns at the same time. The person handing out meds should be focused on just that!

The school nurse is also a benefit for all or the students and teachers because she is able to do health room visits for students with ailments. The nurse has also come to my classroom to give presentations on personal hygiene."

Pat K., Principal:

"The school nurse program has benefitted both students and staff at Sunnyside School. Students who receive medication on a daily basis are carefully monitored, with your system of administration. Your careful attention to signs/symptoms of illness and injury is an important part of the care that is provided. You are also a source of health and wellness information to both students and staff. We also appreciate your annual immunization clinic for staff. Your monthly health articles for the school newsletter provide outreach to the parents of Sunnyside School. You are an important part of the overall program to provide a safe school environment for all concerned at Sunnyside. Thanks for your good work!"

Janice M., Teacher:

"It's nice to be able to check with an expert when we have medical questions about children. It's nice to have a nurse give medications to kids at the same time everyday - and not have to bother Bonnie. It's nice to have a nurse do followups with certain illnesses/situations."

Debbie M., Teacher:

"I think it is a tremendous help in the giving of medication. This helps in avoiding potential problems.

Having a nurse in the building helps the teachers in that if there is a complaint, the student can be sent to the nurse. many times the officialness of the nurse helps them feel better."

Kathy S., Speech:

"I see the school nurse program as helpful in managing my IEP kids medical needs. Either in mediation or understanding other health concerns we may have in developing IEP's."

Bonnie A., Secretary:

"As a Secretary I appreciate nurses in school. When students are required to take medications we have a trained professional giving them out. We have many students in schools with Asthma and some of those students require nebulizers and a treatment that if not given right would have

serious effects. When we have lice, our nurse knows exactly what to look for and the best method of treatment. Parents are very comforted when they know a nurse is in the building for questions they may have regarding their child. Also, any serious injuries on the playground are referred to our nurse and she is able to determine if they need immediate medical attention or not. I believe that having a nurse in all Schools is very beneficial to parents, staff and the students, in that they are getting the best medical attention they deserve. Every child deserves the best we have to offer and I think having a nurse is offering the best to a child's well being."

Dixie B., Secretary:

"My name is Dixie, I am the secretary at Jefferson Elementary School. One of the pilot schools for school nursing. I can not begin to tell you how much I appreciate the school nurse. With students on medication, it is wonderful to have a trained person to administer their medication to the students. To have a nurse in the building to do head lice checks, taking care of serious injuries occurring on their playground, and doing classroom presentations is beneficial to the students, teachers, and parents. Our school nurse is a real asset to everyone involved. Mainly the children."

Nancy T., Teacher:

"I really like that I can send students down to have the nurse check out health issues that I am not sure of.
I like that a nurse is giving the students their med."

Becky F., Counselor:

"Sunnyside students, parents, and staff all benefit from having a nurse in our school. We have many students on medications and the secretary handling meds. out in the main office just is not a good idea. The nurse also gives classroom presentations if the teachers see a need. The students who see our nurse have one more caring person in their lives and to many of our children that is very important."

Lorraine S., Teacher:

"I want to take the time to let you know how much Linda Wright is needed and wanted at North Hill School. So many of the children are taking special meds. for various reasons and she is always there to monitor their needs. Small children don't always remember when to take medicine. If children become ill during the day, Linda is better qualified to know what is wrong. Linda does a good job and is truly appreciated."

John B., Teacher:

"The Nursing/Health services provided by Linda Wright and Marsha Fitterer is essential for students receiving SED services whom are being administered psychotropic and behavior management medication at school. In 97-98, the SED student caseload was 16 students. fourteen of the students were prescribed medication. Consistent, accurate medication administration is critical in order to attain therapeutic level of behavior management medications. Health services at North Hill also provide an essential component of MDT comprehensive evaluations."

Kathy F., Teacher:

"It is wonderful having a knowledgeable nurse in our building. She has been so helpful with individuals feeling ill during the day. This is so time consuming for a classroom teacher to try and figure out the ailment and if it's necessary to call the parents. I feel such a relief being able to refer my students to a professional health care provider right in the building. The distribution of daily meds. is also done so professionally by the nurses. Linda had also spoken to my entire class about health concerns at particular times. She is part of our school team and I appreciate her greatly."

Tammy M., Teacher:

"We are very fortunate to have a School Nurse at North hill School. It benefits the students as well as the teacher. The School Nurse handles injuries on playground and student illness, administers medication, conducts head lice checks, tracks immunizations record, vision screenings, classroom presentations, and monitors medical problems of students. I have personally worked with the school nurse regarding students with asthma and diabetes. She shares her knowledge and answers questions thoroughly. Having a school nurse in our school is an asset for emergency and non-emergency situations. I hope this service will be continued in the future."

Grant J., Principal:

"The nursing program in the schools provide a tremendous service to the kids, parents, and to school personnel. Some of the key services/items are:

- Medication distribution
 - distributed by a trained professional
 - able to make required follow-ups with parents and medical personnel
 - ability to monitor distribution on a daily basis
 - ability to watch for reactions, side effects, benefits ect.
- Serves as a resource to school personnel
 - teach units on nutrition, health, safety, ect.
 - provide assistance in screenings, check for head lice, ect.
 - follow-up and manage immunization requirements
 - consultant on diseases, infections and other medical concerns
 - provides staff inservice
 - provide staff immunizations
 - liaison between the school and medical personnel
 - provide first aid services to children
 - resource to students and parents on health related issues

From an administrator's point of view, it is extremely helpful to not have to worry about the items listed above. It is comforting to know that trained people are taking care of the health issues and that I am being subjected to a lot less liability issues as a result."

Testimony on House Bill No. 1345

A Bill for an Act to amend and reenact section 57-36-32 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the rate of tax on the sale of cigarettes; to provide an appropriation for school nursing project grants: and to provide an effective date.

By Barbara Jacobsen, Coordinator of the PreK-16 Partnership Council, and Assistant Professor, UND Department of Social Work.

Chairperson Belter and member of the Finance and Taxation Committee, I am writing on behalf of the PreK-16 Partnership Council, with a current membership of approximately fifty individuals with representation from the Grand Forks Schools, the community human service providers, the UND departments of nursing, education, and social work, and the families we serve. We are writing in support of House Bill 1345 which would help fund school nurses in the state of North Dakota. Please accept our written testimony.

The Need for House Bill No. 1345

The Grand Forks Public Schools at Lake Agassiz Elementary and the UND College of Education have been recipients of funding from the Knight Foundation since 1993. In response to a growing awareness on the part of these collaborators of the needs of families in their school community, transition funding was secured in 1996 from the Knight Foundation to support the PreK-16 Partnership Council. This Council, with the help of its many members, has greatly broadened the mission of the community school by piloting a full service school at Lake Agassiz Elementary last year. This project, entitled the School as the Center of Community Project placed a part time counselor, part time nurse, and a social worker at Lake Agassiz to serve children and their families through direct services and linking them to neighborhood or community programming.

Funding for these personnel came from the Grand Forks Public Schools, and grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (written by Public Health) and the Regional Childrens Services Coordinating Committee. The timing of this project was fortuitous given the flood of 1997 and the aftermath and impact of this disaster for schools, children, and families. The project, with the help of the Knight Foundation has now expanded to six more schools in the Grand Forks Community. Funding for the counselor and social work members of these teams is relatively secure for the next three years, but funding for the nurses will terminate in May of 2000. These nurses are an essential component of our team, and are often the key personnel in establishing initial contact with families.

In the relatively short time span the project has been in existence, these nurses have been credited with detecting serious health problems in children and ensuring that these children receive services. They have provided valuable programming for children with serious illnesses, and programming that will help prevent the outbreak of illness in children. It is a great comfort to parents of children with serious illnesses or disabilities, that a resource person is available to them in their local school. It is also very helpful to have personnel who can consult and be a resource to teachers and other support personnel who struggle to make sense of a child's symptoms, behaviors, or needs.

Thirty six members attended our last PreK-16 Partnership meeting in which discussion of this proposed bill ensued. It was apparent that the group, which has broad representation, supports this bill. It has been an item of discussion with our members for nearly two years and our family needs assessment surveys clearly support the need for accessible health services. We strongly urge support for this measure which would provide school nurses throughout the state. Thank you.



Thursday, February 4, 1999 9:23:34 AM



Message

From:  Loni Larson

Subject: school nurse program

To:  lwinrich@state.nd.us

Dear Mr. Winrich, I'm writing in support of House Bill No. 1345 which would provide an appropriation for school nursing programs in the Grand Forks School System. I am a school social worker serving Wilder and West Elementaries. I work closely with our school nurse Kathy Mack. Kathy and I have made several home visits to parents together as we have found that social and health issues often go hand-in-hand. Working as a team, we have helped parents deal with chronic head lice in their children, severe psychiatric/emotional illnesses, skin diseases, the list goes on and on. Many of these families (often single-parent, mother headed households) have no transportation and/or no insurance so they do not get adequate care for their children. I have witnessed the parents' relief when Kathy walks in their door to provide help and reassurance. She has been instrumental also in helping the families get appointments and negotiate the often complicated medical system. It would be a great disservice to these families to allow the current school nurse program offered through Public Health come to an end due to lack of funding. Please support House Bill No. 1345.

Loni Larson, MSW, LCSW