



## *National Association of School Nurses*

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### **Student-to-School Nurse Ratio Improvement Act of 2009 H.R. 2730**

- Reintroduced by Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) and 12 co-sponsors on June 4, 2009.
- Number of co-sponsors has doubled since its original introduction in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- Now has bi-partisan support.
- Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The Subcommittee on Health is chaired by Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ).
- Based on the organizational supporters of the former bill, the new bill is expected to have initial support of at least 50 national and state organizations (see other side).
- Currently, more than 50% of public schools in the U.S. do not have a full time Registered Nurse. Wide ratio disparities exist from state to state, within school districts, and between urban and rural schools.
- The Act would provide competitive demonstration grants through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to eligible states so that they may reduce the student-to-school nurse ratios. CDC would then report to the Congress on the efficacy of the piloted grant program regarding the relationship between the provision of student health services and educational outcomes.
- Students today have increasingly complex needs for nursing care. School nurses help facilitate learning for all students, especially those with asthma, food allergies, obesity, vision and hearing difficulties, dental problems, mental and behavioral problems, and those who need prescribed medicine for either acute or chronic conditions.
- With 97% of school-age children in the U.S. spending their days at school, the role of the school nurse is critical to the implementation of quality school health services. For many children, contact with a school nurse is often the only consistent access to a health care professional.

## **List of Supporters of the First Student-to-School Nurse Ratio Improvement Act**

Allergy & Asthma Network, Mothers of Asthmatics  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Art Therapy Association  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.  
American Counseling Association  
American Dental Association  
American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Lung Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American School Counselor Association  
American School Health Association  
Center for Health and Learning  
Coalition for Community Schools  
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America  
Council for Exceptional Children  
First Focus  
Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network  
Healthy Schools Campaign  
Healthy Schools Network, Inc.  
LEAnet  
Linking Education and Practice Public Health Nursing  
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Pupil Services Administrators  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Education Association  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Nevada State Association of School Nurses  
Nursing Organizations Alliance  
Oral Health Awareness Colorado!  
PKIDs, Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases  
School Health Corporation  
School Social Work Association of America  
South Carolina Association of School Nurses  
Stakeholders Collaboration to Improve Student Health  
United Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.  
University of Maryland School of Medicine  
Voices For Vaccines  
Wisconsin Association of School Nurses  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction