
January 2024

One School, One Nurse Act

ACTION

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) urges Congress to pass the One School, One Nurse Act that would work to enable that every public school had a full-time registered nurse on staff so that children are safe, healthy, and ready to learn. The One School, One Nurse Act was introduced by Representative Frederica Wilson (D-Fl) and Jamaal Bowman (D-NY), HR 305.

HISTORY

- National data indicates 65.7 percent of schools have access to a full time school nurse [up from 39 percent as a result of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER funds)]. School nursing services inequities exist from state to state, within states and school districts, and between urban and rural schools.
- Further, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a registered school nurse be in every elementary and secondary school.
- This bill seeks to eliminate health inequities in our public schools and to provide better health care options for our schoolchildren.
- School nurses promote wellness and disease prevention and perform early intervention services, such as periodic assessments for vision, hearing, and dental problems, to reduce barriers to learning and address health disparities.
- School nurses play a critical role in helping to manage the chronic physical, emotional, mental, and social health needs of students, conduct health screenings, facilitate vaccinations and immunization compliance efforts, reduce burdens on educators and other school staff, and support a positive and healthy school climate.

BACKGROUND

- This bill seeks both to support the recruitment and hiring of school nurses and to ensure every school has a registered school nurse in the building.
- This grant will target hiring nurses from underrepresented backgrounds.
- The One School, One Nurse Act seeks to convert part-time school nurses to full-time.
- This grant seeks to retain current school nurses in part by increasing salaries.
- This would be a five-year grant program from the Department of Education.