

Dear (insert legislator's name):

I am writing (or calling) to ask that you **support and vote YES for House Bill 1847 (G. Coleman) and the companion Senate Bill 673 (B. Miles)** requiring school community notification when a public school campus or open-enrollment charter school does not have a nurse assigned to the campus during all instructional hours. **These bills enhance student safety and informed decision-making, carry no funding attachments, and present an excellent opportunity for bipartisan cooperation** to promote improved student health and safety for Texas students without additional funding appropriations.

As you know, Texas schools are not required to staff health offices with a professional nurse. You may not be aware it is common for parents and students to assume the person wearing scrubs in a school health office is a professional nurse; when in fact, that person may be a secretary or a lay person.

Some 20% of children attending public schools have a chronic illness [NASN, 2011]. Because school hours consume about one-third of a child's school day, much of the health care of children with these chronic illnesses become the responsibility of the school. These medical conditions are complex and include ventilators, tracheostomies, feeding tubes, diabetes, asthma, seizures, heart conditions, mental illness, organ failure, cancer immune disorders, rare genetic syndromes, etc.

These bills will help schools maintain accountability and transparency about the health care available on campus during the school day. When parents know who will be managing the health of their child, regardless if their child has a chronic health condition or not, they have the option to make informed decisions about the health and safety of their children during the school day, arrange to work closely with their school and the child's teacher(s) to develop specific plans, and provide more contact numbers of alternate adults who are informed about their child's health care need, in case of emergency.

[Insert your personal story about why it is important that parents know who is providing health care.]

Please support House Bill 1847 and Senate Bill 673 and feel at liberty to contact me. Thank you for all your hard work on the behalf of Texas school children!

Respectfully,