

2020 Annual Report of the Legislative Committee

According to Article V, Section 1. A. of the New Hampshire School Nurses' Association (NHSNA) Constitution & By-Laws, the Legislative Committee aids in planning, drafting or presenting desired legislation to State Legislature; upgrades the standards of employment for school nurses; and, maintains an awareness of legislation and/or regulations pertinent to the practice of Nursing and School Nursing.

In fulfilling these duties, the NHSNA Legislative Committee is committed to working diligently on activities and initiatives that impact New Hampshire (NH) school children, their families and their school communities through the following:

- · Participation on the NHNA's Legislative Advisory Council with presentations at this year's Legislative Town Hall Forum:
- ○ In support of HB 1489, Allowing RNs to certify walking disability plate eligibility. Fixes a problem with prior legislation by adding the RN to the list of health care providers that currently certify eligibility for walking disability plates and placards.
- ○ In support of HB 1662, Relative to purchase, use & possession of tobacco products. Raises the age for purchase, use and possession of tobacco products from 19 to 21 years.
- ○ In support of SB 609, Relative to passenger restraints. This bill aims to establish secondary seat belts requirements for all ages in the State of NH.
- ○ In support of SB 584, Relative to policies for students with head injuries. This bill requires the Department of Education to collaborate with the Brain Injury Association of NH to develop a return to learning policy and plan for students with concussions and brain injuries.
- · Collaboration with the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- ○ During the rules writing process for R.S.A. 167:3-k, Medicaid to Schools for Medical Services. On February 21, 2020, the NH Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) voted unanimously to approve He-W 589, the new Medicaid to School rule. This rule describes Medicaid-reimbursable services, to include those provided by school nurses. (To view the rule, visit <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/medicaid/mts/documents/hew589adopted.pdf>).
- ○ In support of SB 684, relative to Medicaid to Schools, signed by Governor Sununu on March 10, 2020. This law facilitates the provision of medical services in school settings to students by amending the Nurse Practice Act; Scope of Practice; Licensed Nursing Assistant [RSA 326-B:14, II-a(b)] to include public schools to the list of settings where a licensed nurse may delegate the task of medication administration.
- ○ Participation on the commission to develop and promote mental health programs and behavioral health and wellness programs in kindergarten through grade 12, subsequent to the passing of 2019 HB 131

- o Participation 10-Year Mental Health Plan
- · Written and oral testimony based on robust discussions with elected officials and multi-disciplinary stakeholders
- o Regarding HB 1682, proposed legislation requiring a food allergy protocol with appropriate training for school staff in all schools, including charter and private schools
- o Supporting SB 599, requiring testing for lead in water in schools and child care facilities
- o Promoting HPV vaccination rates among NH adolescents
- o Advocating for SB 685-FN and making medication affordable through the lawful importation of prescription drugs from Canada

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court has suspended all legislative activities through May 4, 2020. The Committee continues monitoring of a number of bills that have the potential to impact NH children, including:

- o SB 248, a bill increasing the age for sales and possession of tobacco products to 21 years of age
- o HB 1285, a bill prohibiting carrying a firearm on school property
- o SB 533, a bill establishing a committee to study the benefit of extended school recess
- o HB 1337, a bill permitting parents to opt their child out of armed assailant drills in school
- o HB 1459, a bill that would change the requirements for school district policies governing the administration of non-academic surveys or questionnaires
- o HB 1163, a bill requiring schools to update documents and software to include the option of identifying a student as non-binary
- o HB 1127 and 1512, bills that would require school boards providing free or reduced cost meals to refrain from actions that could stigmatize a child requesting such a meal, and addressing child hunger through freezing leftover school food to send home with children participating in free or reduced price meal programs, respectively
- o HB 1436-FN, a bill increasing insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder
- o SB 665, a bill providing that as part of the system of care for children's mental health under R.S.A. 135-F, the department of education shall assist school districts in using the multi-tiered system of supports for behavioral health and wellness or MTSS-B

It has been a rewarding challenge to represent the NH school nurses, school children and school communities through my work on the Legislative committee, and I would encourage anyone to consider joining us – your expertise and voice count!

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Fairbanks, RN

Legislative Committee Chair