Dear Representative *insert name here*,

As a New Hampshire School Nurse, I urge you to support HB 490 to establish the position of School Nurse Coordinator in the Department of Education, Division of Learner Support.

This valuable position has been vacant since 2017, and since this time, there is lack of guidance and leadership for school nurses across the state. The position of school nurse is unique, in that most nurses are the sole health care provider within an educational setting. Education laws as well as nursing practice laws need to be considered when a school nurse makes decisions around complex health issues, from acute and chronic health conditions, to mental and behavioral health, as well as substance abuse issues with students and families. It is imperative that there are better resources provided to school nurses as they meet today’s challenges in our schools.

School Nurses across New Hampshire seek nursing leadership in the Department of Education for guidance on challenging practice issues, legal issues, to assist with continuing education, to provide policy and procedure guidance, and to provide connections between school nurses and other partnering organizations.

Please vote yes to NH 490! I would be happy to answer any questions. Please feel free to contact me at *email address and phone number here.*

Sincerely,