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To: House Committee on Education
From: A Hollenberg, BSN,RN
RE: Support for HB 2959

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson and members of the committee—
My name is _Ann Hollenberg and I am here today as a RN of 38 years, and I am here to express my support for House Bill 2959.

As a trained health professional in school, I am both licensed and practice within school systems and settings that can sometimes be in conflict with one another. We believe our students deserve the best possible educational journey at every turn and we know that the barriers that provide for these conflicting rules to our licensure are systemic, so we know the solutions will take long-term commitment and dedication

Delegation to UAP within the schools is difficult as the teaching staff and office staff in general feel that more and more medical based things are being asked of them when their plate is already full with their own responsibilities. The reason this is occurring is that over the years there is little budget for school nurses in education systems. A school nurse could have multiple schools they are handling and are not able to serve all students, even though that is the expectation. The schools really need to look at the number of students with any health conditions not just high acuity conditions. The mental health need of all students has increased exponentially post COVID. This also is not being addressed.

The schools are set up on Educational IT platforms for their educational needs, however the health room visits, treatments, etc. are also documented in that same system which is not set up for medical charting. The information is viewable by any teacher, or other staff member and the nurses' notes can also be viewed by parents. There is no privacy.

The current program we use leaves us in a liable situation, all the school nurses' need access to a medical documentation computer program for use within the schools that is consistent across the state. It seems every district is using something different.

One clear concern expressed by members from all licensed professionals working in an education setting is the disconnect between requirements of licensure and the realities of practice in schools. That is why we need HB 2959, which will create a Task Force to examine the scope of practice for each type of licensed health professional in schools, establish criteria to help define when procedures are inconsistent with scope of practice, and provide recommendations for alignment.

Thank you for your time today and I encourage the committee to vote YES on HB 2959.

*JAHollenberg, BSN,RN
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