



PRESS RELEASE

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ILLINOIS NURSES ASSOCIATION (INA) FIGHTS FOR THE HEALTHCARE STANDARDS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN ILLINOIS

**INA CONTINUES TO OPPOSE HB6065, CARE OF STUDENTS WITH DIABETES ACT
Chicago, IL – The Illinois Nurses Association supports having qualified nurses in the schools to administer insulin and manage care of children with diabetes. The children of Illinois deserve a safe healthcare environment while attending school.**

Legislative proposal House Bill 6065, Care of Students with Diabetes Act, passed in the Senate today. Since it has been amended, HB 6065 will now go back to the House for a concurrence vote. Doctors, nurses and the teachers who educate our children believe it lowers the standard of healthcare for all school children in Illinois, by removing the requirement of licensed nurses to care for the school child with diabetes. “Not all parents of school children know of this legislation”, says Pam Robbins, RN and President of the Illinois Nurses Association, “or its impact to all children in Illinois schools”. In fact, this legislation allows for any school employee, without liability, to volunteer to manage a child’s diabetes. Laws today safeguard children in schools such as the Illinois School Code and the Nurse Practice Act. Laws that define nursing activities such as medication administration, which require a licensed nurse as the qualified person to perform such activities, and that those duties as defined in the Nursing Act shall not be included among the functions assigned to any school district personnel.

Why the push for HB 6065? Their answer is the school districts have no money for school nurses. In Manhattan, Illinois Mary Kellbach spoke to the Manhattan Grade School District 114 Board on April 13th. Mary is the mother of a diabetic child who wears an insulin pump. He self manages his diabetes, but when her son’s blood sugar is too low, he has seizures. Mary expounded that his school nurse cares for her child and stated “there are rumblings in the school community about layoffs...who will care for my son if he has a seizure”? Kellbach added the difference between having a qualified nurse on hand in an emergency or waiting for an ambulance could mean the difference between life and death for her son.

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The Illinois Nurses Association (INA), a constituent member of the American Nurses Association, and is the largest professional nursing organization in Illinois. INA is dedicated to advancing the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the legislature and regulatory agencies on healthcare issues affecting nurses and the public.