



ILLINOIS NURSES ASSOCIATION

*Empowering Nurses through . . .
Education, Advocacy, and Political Action*

Chicago:
105 W. Adams St., Suite 2101, Chicago, IL 60603
Ph: 312-419-2900 Fax: 312-419-2920
Springfield:
911 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62704
Ph: 217-523-0783 Fax: 217-523-0838

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Deb Weiderman, MS, RN

Director, Marketing & Member Services
312-419-2900, ext. 232

Date April 7, 2010

HB 6065/SB 3822 LOWERS STANDARD OF PUBLIC HEALTHCARE FOR ALL SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

INA OPPOSES PROPOSED CARE OF STUDENTS WITH DIABETES ACT

Chicago, IL – The Illinois Nurses Association, Illinois Association of School Nurses, American Academy of Pediatrics- Illinois Chapter, Illinois Education Association, Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Illinois AFL-CIO, Illinois Federation of Teachers, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, Chicago Teachers Union and Campaign for Better Healthcare forms coalition in Opposition to HB 6065/SB 3822, “Care of Students with Diabetes Act”.

For over 100 years, the Illinois Nurses Association, the premier voice for registered nurses in Illinois has fought to protect patient safety and advocate on behalf of nurses across the state of Illinois regardless of practice setting, political philosophy or membership status. The Coalition for Safe Health Care Management of School Children include: The Illinois Nurses Association, Illinois Association of School Nurses, Illinois Chapter- American Academy of Pediatrics, Illinois Education Association, Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Illinois AFL-CIO, Illinois Federation of Teachers, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, Chicago Teachers Union and Campaign for Better Healthcare have come together as a coalition to oppose the language of HB 6065/SB 3822 and the implications it bears concerning the public safety for all school children, especially diabetic children.

This year House Bill 6065 was introduced in the Illinois General Assembly and swiftly passed the Illinois House of Representatives. Its companion Senate Bill 3822 would allow unlicensed individuals to serve as “delegated care aides” to diabetic children, with no educational requirements. These individuals would be responsible for delivering care to the diabetic child without liability including administering insulin, checking a student’s blood sugar, responding to emergency situations within the school. If necessary, the “aide” would be authorized to contact healthcare providers to modify the diabetic plan of care for the child. These are all the essential functions of a School Nurse.

Nurses are the qualified healthcare professional to care for children with complex chronic illnesses in a school setting. Only the registered nurse has the requisite education in assessment, planning and intervention to assess a child, administer insulin, communicate with providers, and respond in emergency situations for all children within the school.

The Coalition for Safe Health Care Management of School Children urges you to contact your state Senator today and request they Vote “NO” to HB 6065/ SB 3822. To further the safety of school children, urge your legislators to support school nurses in all youth educational settings across Illinois. Every child deserves a school nurse.

#####

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.