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Legislative Paper - Assembly Bill 882

Assembly Bill [AB] 882 School Nursing and Student Services Task Force is a measure introduced February 16, 2017 by state Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula. AB882 is an act to add an article to Section 49420 of the to Education Code, relating to pupil health care services (California Legislative Information [CLI], 2017). According to the Legislative Counsel's Digest (2017), AB882 as amended by Dr. Arambula legislates the following:

- Existing law requires the governing board of a school district to give diligent care to the health and physical development of pupils, and authorizes the governing board of a school district to employ properly certified persons for that work.
- Existing law authorizes a school nurse, subject to the approval by the governing board of the school district, to perform various pupil health care services
- This bill would establish the School Nursing and Pupil Health Care Services Task Force consisting of 18 members, appointed as specified in the bill
- The bill would specify that the main task of the task force shall be to
 - Identify model school health care services programs and practices that directly serve pupils
 - Preserve pupils' ability to learn
 - Fulfill existing state requirements and policies regarding pupil's health
 - Contain health care costs through preventive programs and education
 - Which can be used by county offices of education and school districts to provide support and technical assistance to schools within each jurisdiction
 - In order to improve the safety and quality of health care services to pupils
- The bill would require the task force to perform specified actions, including among others
 - Examining health care funding sources
 - Investigating the billing of pupil's health insurance
 - Recommending standards of school nursing practices
- The bill will require the State Department of Education to convene one or more meetings of the task force to complete these requirements and to report the results to the Governor and the Legislative on or before January 1, 2019.

(CLI, 2017)

CSNO sponsors this bill and obviously highly, supports passing of AB822 and as such initiated grassroots campaigning through the CSNO membership to promote passage of the statute. CSNO made the following comments regarding the recent action of the Education Committee:

“The Chair [Education Committee] remarked that we need more school nurses and that they are important in the schools.” Our CSNO president and president elect also testified before the committee as well as meeting with their legislators to advocate for passage when the bill reaches the Assembly floor. CSNO further stated, “A good day for school nurses and the students, families and communities they serve. Thank you all for the support and advocacy to bet AB882 passed out of the 2 policy committees”

(Retrieved from: <http://www.csno.org>, retrieved 4/29/17).

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This bill meets several of the CSNO Legislative Priorities for 2016-2017 of which I

support:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Advocate for a safe and adequate student to school nurse ration in all California School that meet federal guidelines</i> • <i>Advocate for legislative funding to support the student to school nurse ration</i> |
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(CSNO, 2017)

These priorities directly reflect the CSNO Mission Statement: to ensure that school

nurses optimize student health and enhance learning by:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating grassroots efforts within regional sections • Developing and providing professional learning opportunity • Fostering the development of leaders • Conducting research and using evidence based practice • Providing standards of care • Advocating for school health services |
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(CSNO, 2017)

Other organizations lending support to this legislation are:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABC Unified School District • American Nurses Association – California • California School Nurse Organization – San Diego/Imperial Section • Fresno County Superintendent of Schools • Las Virgenes Unified School District School Nurses • Oceanside Unified School District School Nurses • Orange County School Nurse Organization • Sacramento City Unified School District • Teachers for Healthy Kids • Numerous individuals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees [AFL-CIO] • California Teachers Association • Children NOW • Fresno Unified School District • Long Beach Unified School District School Nurses • Richland School District School Nurses • San Joaquin county Office School Nurses • Torrance Unified School District Credentialed School Nurses |
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(CLI, 2017)

The only opposition to the bill as listed by the Assembly committee on Health is the California Right to Life Committee, Inc. (CLI, 2017a)

This bill addresses our business i.e., school nursing, and the sponsor of the bill is our organization, California School Nurse Organization (CSNO) of which I am a member. I support this bill and have no changes I would recommend to this bill, which was last amended May 5, 2017 and returned to the Committee on Appropriations. Since this establishes a fact-finding task

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force, the implications to California Education Law and School Nursing will be more clear once the findings are presented to the Governor.

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May 6, 2017

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher
The California State Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol Building, Room 2114
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080
(916) 319-2080

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher,

I am writing in support of AB882 Arambula bill Pupil Health Care Services: School Nursing and Pupil Health Care Services Task Force submitted to the Committee on Appropriations May 5, 2017.

If passed, AB882 Arambula will identify model school health care services, programs, and practices that directly service pupils and offer recommendations to county office of education and school districts resulting in improved safety and quality of health care services to pupils within our state.

California has over 10,000 schools with an enrollment of 6.2 million students. Currently there is a school nurse to student ratio of 1:3,048. I am one of these school nurses and carry a caseload of over 3,000 students in Central California. The numerous chronic and acute illnesses and specialized health care needs my students bring to school need addressing. Children cannot reach their full education potential unless they are healthy and ready to learn. School nurses are uniquely qualified to the primary care of pupils and work to reduce absenteeism through effective health interventions for acute and chronic illnesses as well as preventative programs and education, which ultimately reduces health care costs. However, there is no funding or line item in the state budget or local LEA budgets to address the shortages of health care personnel necessary adequately meet my students' health care needs. This bill will provide recommendations to address these needs.

Thank you for taking the time to review my support on this issue. I would appreciate your supportive vote in the appropriations committee for SB882 Arambula.

Sincerely,
Kristi L. Mefford RN

Kristi L. Mefford RN, BSN, PHN
Credentialed School Nurse – Visalia Unified School District
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(559) 967-4761

CC: Dr. Joaquin Arambula; Assembly Member

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References

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