



Education and Career Readiness Committee  
Tuesday, March 13, 2018

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 491**  
**Joan Hlinomaz MS, BSN, RN, LSN, NCSN, President - Ohio Association of School Nurses**

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Minority Member Fedor and members of the Ohio House Education and Career Readiness Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today as an interested party of HB 491 on behalf of the 460 School Nurse members of the Ohio Association of School Nurses and our affiliate regional organizations.

My name is Joan Hlinomaz. I have been licensed as a School Nurse in Ohio for 15 years. I am a full-time Licensed School Nurse for Kettering City Schools in Southwest Ohio. I work at Kettering Middle School where I provide school nursing services to 1028 sixth through eighth grade students. I also have been recently installed as the President of the Ohio Association of School Nurses.

Many school districts in Ohio, like mine, do not face a shortage of substitute nurses for school nursing services. But, the Ohio Association of School Nurses does acknowledge that there are areas and regions of Ohio where hiring of substitute related services professionals may be more difficult. Our organization would like to work with Representative Edwards and this committee to develop a strategy for hiring of substitute nurses that will best care for the health and safety of Ohio's children while they are attending school.

The Ohio Association of School Nurses has concern about the language used for nurses working as substitutes in schools in the introduced legislation text of HB 491. We are proposing language changes that would achieve the highest standard of nursing care for children of Ohio while they attend school. It is paramount, with the current events in our nation regarding school violence, that even substitute nurses be highly educated in the health and safety of children.

The Ohio Association of School Nurse requests that the wording in lines 9, 19, 21 of HB 491 be changed to read:  
Line 9 this section, shall issue a **substitute** license to any of the following

Line 19 A registered nurse who holds a bachelor's degree and a currently valid license  
Line 20 issued under Chapter 4723 of the Revised Code and wishes to be  
Line 21 employed as a substitute ~~school~~ nurse;

Our rationale for these language changes are:  
For line 9: "Substitute" is added as a clarification from line 3 that HB 491 is specific to a substitute license only.

For line 19:

1. All of the disciplines mentioned in HB 491 (except Registered Nurse) have a minimum educational level of a bachelor degree or higher.
2. Registered Nurses are licensed after attending one of three types of educational programs: diploma, associate or bachelor degree.
3. In order to obtain a School Nurse ODE Pupil Services License, the Registered Nurse must have a bachelor's degree.
4. The Ohio Association of School Nurses requests the bachelor's degree be required to be consistent with the minimum all other disciplines for this substitute license to pupil service personnel, as well to the position being provided a substitute.

For line 21:

1. The ORC 3313.68 and OAC 3301-24-05 provide the requirements for a School Nurse ODE Pupil Services license which requires graduate level coursework the RN must complete in order to be licensed as a School Nurse.
2. Nurses who are contracted to work in a school system without an School Nurse ODE Pupil Services License are not to use "School Nurse" in their title.
3. The Ohio Association of School Nurses requests that the word "school" be removed unless the substitute is required to take the additional post graduate academic classes required of School Nurses.

On behalf of Ohio School Nurses, thank you for listening to our recommendations and considering our requested language changes to HB 491. Thank you for your time. I will gladly take your questions.