



November 13, 2023

Representatives Gross and Arthur-Fowler,

In response to your request for proponent testimony regarding HB 70 that you are bringing forth, the Ohio Association of School Nurses (OASN), an affiliate of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) support school districts having medication authorization policies in place for all medications, both prescription and non-prescription (preferred language in place of OTC) as this reflects best practice in regards to safely administering medications to students in the school setting.

I have included a copy of the School Nursing Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guideline for Medication Administration published by NASN and available to all School Nurses to help guide their practice. In the first section it gives guidance on medication administration policies and the School Nurse role with these.

In addition, it is the position of OASN and NASN that “all students should have access to school nursing care by a registered, professional school nurse (hereinafter referred to as school nurse) all day, every day. For students who face barriers to accessing healthcare, especially those living in predominantly low-income, rural and minority communities, a school nurse may serve as their only regular healthcare provider. School nurses provide students, staff, and school communities with quality healthcare that is critical for health promotion, disease prevention, health maintenance, and health equity (National Academy of Medicine, 2021).”

Realizing that every school district may not have a School Nurse offering input on these decisions, OASN continues to strive to meet our mission to promote optimal wellness among Ohio’s school children and their communities by supporting their educational success & providing leadership, education & support for the practice of school nursing. Increasing the number of Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Licensed and/or Nationally Certified School Nurses statewide will continue to help address this mission and support of this endeavor by our legislative body would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Pamela Buehler BSN, RN, NCSN

President, Ohio Association of School Nurses 2023-26