

Committees:

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**Representative Jennifer Gross
The Ohio House of Representatives**

Representative Jennifer Gross - HB 70 Sponsor Testimony: June 11, 2023

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing Representative Fowler Arthur and me to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 70.

The school nurse has the educational background, knowledge, expertise, and licensure to direct the administration of medications to children. Medications, when administered and used appropriately, can improve children's health but may be harmful if administered incorrectly. If a child needs specific medication during the course of the day to attend school, it is in the school's interest to make these accommodations. School districts should have parent approved, well written policies and procedures that focus on safe administration of over-the-counter medications at school and school sponsored activities; however, in Ohio, this is not always the case.

Parents know their child's medical history best. Releasing all medical records can be a dilemma as some issues can carry societal stigma. Once a release has been signed, information in the child's medical records can be shared with anyone in the school district who has an educational interest in the child. For this reason, giving a simple over the counter medication may be safe for one child and unsafe for another. Permission to give a child over the counter medication needs to be assessed by that child's personal medical provider and the parents. Without complete medical history and information, the school may not understand the risk to a particular child.

In some states, "over-the-counter" (OTC) and homeopathic/herbal medications require a medication order signed by an approved health care provider. But as stated by Representative Fowler Arthur, in Ohio, the law is silent on this issue.

Over the counter medications may be used for pain, allergies, constipation, or nausea and other symptoms. These medications can cause unpleasant side effects which are called adverse events. Adverse events include: side effects, drug to drug interactions, food to drug interactions, and allergic reactions.

Children who have certain medical conditions are at higher risk for adverse reactions: asthma, bleeding disorders, blood clotting disorders, breathing problems, diabetes, epilepsy, immune system problems, kidney problems, and liver problems.

The schools do request medical history, however not all schools request permission to give over the counter medications.

We love our children in Ohio. It is Representative Fowler Arthur's and my intent with this bill to assure over the counter medication administration is parent approved, so that all our children are as safe as possible.

Thank you for allowing us time to present this information. We are open to answering any questions you may have.