

TESTIMONY OF Janis Hogan
Maine Director, National Association of School Nurses
In Opposition to L.D. 1491
“An Act to Allow Trained, Nonmedical Employees in Schools to Administer Emergency Medications”
Sponsored by Representative Justin Chenette
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

January 11, 2016

Senator Langley, Representative Kornfield, and members of the Committee,

My name is Janis Hogan. I am the Maine Director of the National Association of School Nurses and I am here to testify in opposition to L.D. 1491.

In a position statement of my organization, Nursing Delegation to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel in the School Setting, nursing delegation is defined as “*transferring the responsibility of performing a nursing activity to another person while retaining* accountability for the outcome.” Professional School Nurses are “accountable to: (1) state laws, rules and regulations; (2) employer policies and procedures/agency regulations, and (3) standards of professional practice, including those pertaining to delegation.” This includes the delegation of medication administration.

In Maine schools, the coordination and oversight of health care of students is the sole responsibility of the Registered Professional School Nurse. Students with health care needs are assessed and if needed, an Individual Health Plan or 504 plan is created by the School Nurse in consultation with the students’ health care provider. This plan includes the determination for the appropriateness of delegation of care to unlicensed personnel, including medication administration. In contradiction to the Maine Nurse Practice Act, L.D. 1491 removes this role from the School Nurse to the School Administrative Unit.

It is my belief, that current Maine Statute governing the practice of the Registered Professional Nurse and the Department of Education rules and regulations on Medication Administration in the school setting, provide the most appropriate guidance for the delegation of medication administration by unlicensed personnel.

For these reasons, and for the safest and best health care for Maine school children, I am in opposition to L.D. 1491.

