

February 19, 2025

Dear Chairman Cordelli and members of the House Education Policy and Administration Committee

My name is Pamela DiNapoli and I am a school nurse in the Manchester School District and represent the NH School Nurses Association as chairperson of the Legislative Action Committee. I am here to testify on HB 360 AN ACT prohibiting public schools from performing diagnostic tests or surgical procedures, or prescribing pharmaceutical drugs.

The two main issues that the Association finds with this bill are as follows:

1. It is not within the scope of practice for school nurses to perform surgical procedures or prescribe pharmaceutical drugs. It is therefore unclear what the term “public schools” would be referring to. There was a senate bill last year SB 343 which was AN ACT relative to school-based health services. This bill was sent to interim study because of the vague nature of the language: “allows school districts to contract with a health care provider, health system, or community partner to establish a school-based health center for the purpose of providing services to students beyond the scope of school nursing services.” It appears this current bill is an attempt to ban School Based Health Centers which the School Nurses Association has testified are an evidence-based strategy to decrease barriers to primary care and would oppose any attempt to limit their scope.
2. The second part of the bill that the Association has difficulty with are the terms “perform diagnostic tests.” One important function that School Nurses Perform are interval vision and hearing screenings. While in the true sense these are “screenings” it may be misconstrued that these would be prohibited if this language was retained. In this case many students who are screened annually and referred for follow up because of a failure on the test would be missed which would have long term consequences on the achievement of education outcomes.

It is for these reasons that we request that this committee votes the bill inexpedient to legislate.

Sincerely

Pamela P DiNapoli PhD, RN
NH School Nurses Association
Legislative Action Committee