

Supporting the Prohibition of Unlicensed School Personnel Directing the Practice of Registered Nurses

WHEREAS the citizens of the State of Washington declare that every school age child's health, welfare, safety, and education should be at the center of every decision made by the Department of Health (DOH) in areas related to school age children, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), school administrators, and school nurses who serve them. The taxpayer and the parents who entrust their children to the care of these institutions and individuals have a right to believe with absolute certainty that this is evident;

WHEREAS the number of children with medically complex health conditions requiring respirators, tube feedings and intermittent catheterizations and other conditions such as diabetes, asthma, and life threatening allergic reactions is increasing exponentially in school age children and requiring expert nursing assessment and judgment;

WHEREAS the scope of practice for registered nurses is established by the Nurse Practice Act, RCW 18.79 and RCW 18.130 with oversight by the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission; and

WHEREAS supervisors who are not nurses do not have the authority to direct school nurses to perform activities outside the scope of nursing practice, to re-define the scope of practice for registered nurses even regarding issues that arise in the schools, to assign or delegate any responsibility within the scope of the authorized practice of nursing to a person not licensed to practice such profession unless such assignment or delegation is otherwise authorized by law (WAC Chapter 181-87-070, Code of Professional Conduct);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee respects and supports the work of nurses who are working as school nurses in Washington State;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee calls upon the Washington State legislature and governor to support and enact legislation clarifying that the supervision, evaluation and direction of the licensed practice of a school nurse must be by someone licensed as a registered nurse that has those credentials required by Washington State for this supervisory role;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee calls upon the Washington State legislature and governor to support and enact legislation clarifying that the Washington State DOH sets the standards for licensed nursing practice in schools in order to ensure compliance with federal and state legislation, as well as the Washington State Nurse Practice Act;

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44 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
45 Central Committee calls upon the Washington State legislature and governor to support
46 and enact legislation clarifying that the ultimate evaluation of a nurse's licensed practice
47 in schools is by the Washington State DOH;

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49 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
50 Central Committee calls upon the Washington State legislature and governor to support
51 and enact legislation clarifying that the OSPI and school administrators must facilitate
52 the execution and delivery of licensed nursing practice in schools to comply with the
53 Washington State DOH standards, and state and federal legislation;

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55 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
56 Central Committee calls upon the Washington State legislature and governor to support
57 and enact legislation clarifying that the OSPI and school administrators not licensed as a
58 nurse may only direct and evaluate the non-licensed activities of a school nurse; and

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60 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
61 Central Committee directs the corresponding secretary to send this resolution to all
62 members of the state legislature, the governor of Washington State, the Washington
63 DOH, and OSPI.

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66 Submitted by the Snohomish County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic
67 Central Committee for consideration at its September 26, 2009 meeting in Walla Walla.
68 (Date Submitted 8/30/2009)

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70 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at
71 its September 25, 2009 meeting in Walla Walla.

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73 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its September 26, 2009 meeting in Walla
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