

FEB 01 2011

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Senate of Pennsylvania

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TO: ALL SENATORS
FROM: Senator Patricia H. Vance
DATE: February 2, 2011
SUBJECT: Memo #10 – Reimbursement for school nurses

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce SB 315 from last session that would expand reimbursement to school districts for school nurses. If you would like to co-sponsor this measure, please email Tracy Polovick (tpolovick@psen.gov) or contact my office at 787-8524.

Senate Bill 315

This legislation amends the Public School Code to increase the reimbursement for school nurse services from seven dollars (\$7) to twelve dollars (\$12).

More and more children are coming to school with significant health care needs. It is now not uncommon for a child to attend school on a ventilator or with a tracheostomy. Students in wheelchairs sometimes require catheterization. In addition, there has been an increase in the numbers of children requiring medication administration during the school day.

Both school districts and school nurses are finding the provision of health care services to the student population continually changing and challenging. Many school nurses are required to travel between several buildings to attend to students and in the event of an emergency, balancing student needs becomes increasingly difficult. This increased reimbursement will permit schools to hire more nurses and more appropriately provide for student needs.

At a time when we are discussing increasing the reimbursement per student per year for education from \$8,000 to \$12,000, we believe increasing the reimbursement for school nurse services is more than justified.