

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS!**

**Ask him or her to support the Student to School Nurse Improvement Act of 2009!**

We have a great opportunity to get the federal government to provide funding to help pay for Wisconsin school nurses. Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would make grants to states in order to reduce the student-to-school nurse ratios in public schools.

The legislation, known as H.R. 2730, would authorize the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide funding to those states, like Wisconsin, that have a student-to-school nurse ratio of 1,000 or greater.

Please help us get this important legislation passed by contacting your member of the U.S. House of Representatives. **Encourage your congressman or congresswoman to co-sponsor H.R. 2730.**

Please see the sample letter. You are welcome to use this text, but you should also feel free to add your own personal experiences. ***Make sure your member of congress understands how desperately we need help!***

To find the address of your member of congress, go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov). If you're not sure who your member of congress is, or if you have any other questions, please contact Jack O'Meara, WASN lobbyist, at [jack@omearapublicaffairs.com](mailto:jack@omearapublicaffairs.com) or (608) 294-8746.

And please share a copy of your letter or email with Jack. Thank you!

**SAMPLE LETTER TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ACKING THEM TO  
CO-SPONSOR H.R. 2730, THE STUDENT TO SCHOOL NURSE RATIO  
IMPROVEMENT ACT**

*(Feel free to include personalized information)*

(Date)

The Honorable (Name)

(Address)(ZIP)

Dear (Congressman/Congresswoman)(Last Name):

As a school nurse in your congressional district, I respectfully ask you to co-sponsor H.R. 2730, the Student to School Nurse Ratio Improvement Act of 2009.

H.R. 2730 would amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to eligible states for the purpose of reducing the student-to-school nurse ratio in public schools. States eligible for the funding would be those, including Wisconsin, that have a student-to-school nurse ratio of 1,000 or greater.

Wisconsin is well behind other states when it comes to providing school nurses. We rank 41<sup>st</sup> among the states with a student-to-school nurse ratio of 2,240:1. Even states like Alabama and South Carolina have better ratios.

I believe we can and we must do better, and grants like those proposed in H.R. 2730 would provide us with desperately-needed funding.

Laws passed at the federal level have brought many more children with serious health needs into our schools, creating a much greater need for school nurses. For example, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates that all children, regardless of their health concerns, receive free and appropriate public education, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires that accommodations be made for a person with a disability so he or she can participate in any activity in which an able-bodied person might participate.

Providing nurses in schools is based on a simple premise: Kids can't learn if they are sick or their health needs unmet. It has been well-documented that low student-to-school nurse ratios lead to higher rates of attendance and graduation. Having more school nurses means that student health problems get resolved more quickly and students return to class rather than being sent home.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you or your staff with additional information. Thank you in advance for considering my views.

Sincerely,