



New Jersey Catholic Conference
149 North Warren Street
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ACTION ALERT

ISSUE: A-2657 (Schaer and Diegnan + 13) would increase the funding for nonpublic school nursing services to account for the amount of Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases which have not been honored during the past 22 years.

OUR

POSITION: The New Jersey Catholic Conference and the New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families supports this legislation fully and is working actively to increase the amount of dollars available for nonpublic school nursing services.

ACTION: Please enact the following as soon as possible and continue the effort until the action goal is obtained.

1. Call, fax, or email the offices of Assemblymen Gary Schaer (D-36) and Patrick Diegnan (D-18). Both are co-prime sponsors of the bill, and it is important that you thank them for having introduced the bill.
2. Additionally, in your contact with Assemblyman Diegnan, ask that he, in his role as Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, schedule the bill for a hearing in his committee as soon as possible.
3. Call, fax, or email the co-sponsors of the A-2657 if one or more are in your home district. Thank them for their co-sponsorship and ask that they speak with Assemblyman Diegnan to schedule the bill for a hearing in the Assembly Education Committee.
4. Call, fax, or email the other members of the Assembly Education Committee and ask them to vote favorably on A-2657 when it appears before them.

USE THE INFORMATION ON THE ENCLOSED FACT SHEET/TALKING POINTS ON "NONPUBLIC SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES" AS A GUIDE FOR ANY OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH LEGISLATORS.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and immediate cooperation

FACT SHEET/TALKING POINTS ON NONPUBLIC SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES

- Even though the language recommendations on page 51 of the Appropriations Act for the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget indicates that the nursing services for nonpublic school students shall be funded at \$77.20 per pupil. The amount of \$71.56 is actually caused by proration of services by the New Jersey Department of Education based on enrollment in nonpublic schools.
- Given the increase in potential life-threatening situations in schools as the result of both the day-to-day operations and natural disasters (e.g. fuel spills, fires, and other situations), the nurse is truly the first responder in cases of school emergencies. With all the requirements of specialized health needs for children, the presence of the nurse is critical. Loss in funding results in hours during which the nurse is unavailable to the school community.
- Consider that the original nonpublic school nursing services bill passed in 1991 allocated \$60.00 per pupil for these services. An increase of \$11.56 per pupil since 1991 is hardly a way to keep pace with inflation. The total amount of increase from the 1991-1992 school year is only \$11.56 per pupil (or an increase of \$.52 per year) over the 22 year period.
- Nonpublic school students are at the mercy of the contracts given for these services which are negotiated by local districts using either district personnel or a third party contractor (e.g. educational services commissions, special services school districts, visiting nurses' organizations, public health departments, etc.) We have no control over the actual hourly rate for nurses, nor the cost of administrative/supervisory fees charged by both the district and/or the service provider. Sometimes, these fees can reach 20% of the total allocation.
- We ask that Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan (the co-prime sponsor of A-2657), schedule the bill for a hearing in the Assembly Education Committee at the earliest possible opportunity. Please continue to repeat this request on a regular basis until the hearing is held.

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