


Councilmember David Grosso

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8 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
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13 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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18 To declare the existence of an emergency, with respect to the need to amend the District of
19 Columbia Public School Nurse Assignment Act of 1987 to require that any public school
20 currently receiving school nurse services above 20 hours per week continue at that
21 existing level of service, or the level recommended by the Department of Health's risk-
22 based assessment, whichever is greater, for the remainder of school year 2018-2019.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
25 act may be cited as the "Public School Nurse Assignment Emergency Declaration Resolution of
26 2018".
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28 Sec. 2. (a) In 1987, the Council passed the District of Columbia Public School Nurse
29 Assignment Act of 1987, effective December 10, 1987 (D.C. Law 7-45; D.C. Code § 38-601 *et*
30 *seq.*) to require a registered nurse be assigned to each District of Columbia elementary and
31 secondary public and public charter school a minimum of 20 hours per week beginning in 1989.

32 (b) In 2006, the Council's Committee on Health requested that the Department of Health
33 and Children's National, the school nurse program contractor, transition to 40 hours of nurse
34 coverage per week by supplementing registered nurses with licensed practical nurses.

35 (c) In April 2016, the Deputy Mayor for Education sent a letter to local education agency
36 ("LEA") leaders announcing the Department of Health's new model for the school health
37 services program as part of the broader Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child

38 (“WSCC”) model developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”). Under
39 the new program, registered nurses would continue to provide clinical care for all children with
40 special health care needs who require daily medications or treatment. Additional health
41 professionals and community navigators would work with families, schools, and students’
42 primary care providers to make sure students receive well-child exams and the preventive
43 services they need to be healthy. School nurse service levels would be reset for all schools at a
44 minimum of 20 hours each week, with some receiving additional coverage depending on the
45 medical needs of student population. This new model was to be implemented at the start of
46 school year 2016-2017.

47 (d) Due to extensive concerns raised by school leaders, parents, and the Council’s
48 Committees on Health and Education about the proposed changes, and the failure of the
49 Department of Health to properly consult with and inform school communities about the change,
50 the Council passed emergency and temporary legislation to stop any reduction in nurse coverage
51 in November 2016 and again in September of 2017.

52 (e) While permanent legislation to require a full-time nurse in every school was
53 unanimously approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor, it remains subject to
54 appropriations. The Council is poised to pass the more limited language in-line with the past
55 emergency and temporary legislation at the July 10, 2018 legislative meeting. However, the last
56 temporary legislation will expire before that legislation will take effect.

57 (f) Therefore, there exists an immediate need to amend existing law to require that any
58 school currently receiving school nurse services above 20 hours per week continue at that
59 existing level of service, or the level recommended by the Department of Health’s new risk-
60 based assessment, whichever is greater, for school year 2018-2019.

61 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
62 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the “Public
63 School Nurse Assignment Emergency Amendment Act of 2018” be adopted after a single
64 reading.

65 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.