

House Concurrent Resolution No. 8

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN.

0775L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, the practice of school nursing began in the United States in 1902, when the
3 initial role of the school nurse was to reduce absenteeism by intervening with students and
4 families regarding health care needs related to communicable diseases; and

5 **WHEREAS**, today, professional school nursing is a specialized practice that advances
6 the well-being, academic success, and lifelong achievement of students. To that end, school
7 nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development, promote health and safety,
8 intervene with actual and potential health problems, provide case management services, and
9 actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-
10 management, and self-advocacy, and learning; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, seven roles have been identified by the National Association of School
13 Nurses:

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15 (1) Providing health care to students and staff;

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17 (2) Providing leadership for the provision of health services;

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19 (3) Providing screening and referral for health care;

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21 (4) Promoting a healthy school environment;

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23 (5) Promoting health;

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25 (6) Serving in a leadership role for health policies and programs;

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27 (7) Serving as a liaison between school personnel, family, community, and health care
28 providers; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, today, school nurses are facing increased pressures from every direction.
31 Overwhelming amounts of paperwork, strict administrative policies, diminishing school budgets,
32 and serious concerns regarding legal liabilities leave an insufficient amount of time and resources
33 to provide students with the quality of care they deserve; and
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35 **WHEREAS**, as schools grapple with a resurgence of H1N1 and mandates from the
36 federal government to vaccinate students, many districts have few or no nurses to prevent or
37 respond to outbreaks, leaving students more vulnerable to a virus that spreads easily in
38 classrooms and takes a heavier toll on children and young adults; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, a 2008 survey by the National Association of School Nurses found that
41 only 45% of public schools have their own full-time nurse, another 30% have a part-time nurse,
42 and 25% don't have any nurses at all; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, given the vital role of our professional school nurses, school districts
45 should recognize the dedication and contributions made by professional school nurses and
46 compensate them as like-degreed professionals:

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48 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
49 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
50 concurring therein, hereby recognize the important health and educational services that
51 professional school nurses provide and strongly urge every school district in this state to
52 recognize the dedication of professional school nurses and the valuable role they play in Missouri
53 schools by compensating them as like-degreed professionals; and

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55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
56 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for each
57 school district in Missouri.

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