

Dear Senator/Representative [Last Name],

My name is {NAME} and am a constituent residing in {County Name} County but also working as a School Nurse {or other POSITION}. I am reaching out due to a matter of urgency as it is imperative that the final version of the **MDE FY 24 budget includes the Governor's proposed increase of \$160K to Support a State School Nurse Consultant Position (in section 113 School Support Services)**. If legislators are serious about health professionals, like school social workers and school nurses in schools, then building a structure for support and accountability is essential.

In addition, over the past 3 years the number of Michigan School Nurses has grown over 75% due to legislative prioritization of school and student health through legislative financial support with 31n, 31o and 31aa funding. Our numbers have reached an estimated 800 Michigan school nurses currently.

School Nurses also often work in silos without any local or regional support looking to other school nurses and to the state for guidance and mentoring. This truly is a critical time in which school nurses are needing the ongoing support and sustainability starting with this 1 FTE School Nurse Consultant position. Due to our training and skill set, we are in the unique position to support a student's physical and mental health needs and we are able to bridge education and health helping students stay healthy, safe, in school and ready to learn.

I certainly appreciate your urgent attention to this matter and supporting this change for the addition of 1 School Nurse Consultant FTE. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Your local district School Nurse