



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE**  
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## **WHY DELAWARE NEEDS SCHOOL NURSES IN EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL**

### **HB 19**

**March 2019**

**The League of Women Voters of Delaware wishes to be on record in support of HB 19. This is based on our position recognizing the need for access to a basic level of health care for all.**

It is precisely the schools without a school nurse that are in greatest need.

The school nurse can frankly be a child's only access into the health care system. The absence of a school nurse is felt particularly in areas where low-income families predominate. If a medical issue arises at school, the child's mother/father often has no family doctor, no personal transport, and can't leave work to pick the child up. The school nurse is all that child has.

This bill will pick up on funding for school nurses in exactly those neighborhoods where the school cannot afford to fund one. Of note is the disparity in funding per student in the Districts around the state. Some are near the state average of around \$15,000 per student, but at the low end, the figure hovers around \$12,000 per student, and at the high end, over \$16,000. When funding per student is low, providing a school nurse may unfortunately be put at the bottom of the priority list.

Finally, an on-site nurse can not only help a child in immediate medical need but might also notice medical or psychological issues that teachers and administrators, who are not health care professionals, would miss. We urge your support of HB 19.

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