

## Advocacy/Legislative Committee, April 2015

The legislature has been very busy this season with bills that could potentially impact RI students and our school nurse-teacher practice. For 3 of the 4 following categories, bills have been introduced in the House and Senate. You may view these bills and any action taken on the General Assembly website, [www.rilin.state.ri.us](http://www.rilin.state.ri.us). Click on legislation and check out committee agendas, daily introductions, bill history, committee members, etc. There is a lot of information on this site. Take some time to peruse and acquaint yourself with this informative website.

Please be reminded that RICSNTA respectfully requests you to contact the Advocacy/Legislative committee or any member of the Executive Board if you have any legislative concerns or are interested in proposing legislation to improve student health and safety. If we work together as a cohesive unit we can move forward with greater strength to bring about changes to positively impact RI, our students, and our school nurse-teacher practice and profession.

### 1. Naloxone (Narcan)

- A **House** bill (H 5047) was introduced and referred to HEW Committee. Prior to the hearing, RICSNTA and other groups met with the sponsor in support of the bill. However, we raised concerns about some elements and language in the bill. As a result, amendments have been made (H 5047 Sub A) and include the following conditions/changes:
  - training must be provided to nurses by RI Department of Health or its designee
  - Nurses will NOT be held responsible for providing training to others
  - Naloxone will be available in jr. high schools, middle schools, high schools.

Since the hearing on 3-18-15, H 5047 Sub A has been held for further study. We await further action.

- A companion bill in the **Senate** S 0154 was heard in the Senate Education Committee on April 8, 2015. RICSNTA provided testimony mirroring concerns we expressed with the house bill. The Senate Committee was provided with a copy of H 5047 Sub A. S 0154 has been held for further study and we await further action.

### 2. Epinephrine auto injectors

- **House** Bill H 5699 would permit all (trained) school personnel to administer epi-pen to students exhibiting signs of anaphylaxis who have not been previously identified with allergic reactions. RICSNTA provided written testimony opposing this bill on the basis that non-medical people who volunteer for training will be required to assess children and determine that the symptoms are consistent with allergic reaction and/or anaphylaxis. This is unsafe for students. Regs permit school districts to write standing orders for epinephrine for administration by SNTs to students not previously identified with allergies. The bill was heard by HEW on 3-26-15 and has been held for further study; we await further action.
- **Senate** Bill S 084 would provide for Epi-pens to be stored in schools for emergency administration without parent authorization. RICSNTA provided written and verbal testimony at the Senate Education Committee hearing on April 8, 2015. Bill language is somewhat confusing and the sponsoring senator was not available at the hearing to clarify. If the intent of this bill is to be able to administer epinephrine without doctor and/or parent authorization, then RICSNTA's position is that this responsibility should remain with the nurse, NOT non-medical school personnel. The bill has been held for further study. We await further action.

3. **Consumer Fireworks**

- **House** Bill H 5187 would prohibit the sale of consumer fireworks to the general public. Written and verbal testimony was provided to the House Judiciary Committee on Feb 24<sup>th</sup> in support of this bill on the basis of promoting student and community safety and accident prevention. The bill has been held for further study and we await further action.
- **Senate** companion Bill S 0431 was introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary. Written testimony in support of this bill was provided to the committee members at the hearing on April 7, 2015. The bill has been held for further study; we await further action

4. **Nurse Licensure Compact**

- RICSNTA opposes **House** bill H 5481 that would require nurses to obtain licensure in the state where they practice. The bill was heard by the House Corporations Committee on April 7, 2015. The bill has been held for further study and we await further action.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah L. Svitil, RN CSNT  
RICSNTA Advocacy (Legislative) Chair  
April 15, 2015