



**Testimony to the Assembly Education Committee on Assembly Bill 223,  
relating to maintaining a supply of usable opioid antagonist in schools  
November 1, 2023**

The Wisconsin Association of School Nurses (WASN) represents school nurses working in school settings across Wisconsin. WASN appreciates and shares the goal of the authors of AB 223 of making opioid antagonist as available as possible in our schools. But AB 223, as drafted, needs to be amended to ensure the best possible language is put into statute and that it is consistent with other provisions relating to school health that already exist in our statutes.

Specifically, the bill should:

- Create language that clearly supports schools being able to receive doses of an opioid antagonist in the school's name and stock such medication under a medication policy written by a school nurse (currently, that is the requirement for all other medications) in conjunction with those designated by the school board.
- Make it clear that prescribers can write prescriptions and orders for opioid antagonist and pharmacies can fill orders in the name of a school, not just an individual.
- Ensure that the bill's language is linked to the medication training for school employees currently required in state statute.
- Ensure that licensed healthcare providers (school nurses) may administer these medications to students and others.

These changes will ensure better and safer health care delivery in the school setting, and more clarity for those who implement state laws on a daily basis. We look forward to working with the bill's authors on an amendment to ensure these changes are included in the bill.

We shared this language in testimony to the Senate Education Committee back in May when that committee brought up SB 206, the companion bill to AB 223. Unfortunately, we have not seen the language we proposed incorporated into an amendment. Instead, we have seen a substitute amendment drafted to both SB 206 and AB 223 that substitutes the original language with language that would create immunity from liability for administering opioid antagonist.

If the substitute amendment is adopted, WASN will remain neutral on the bill. WASN continues to urge legislators to pass legislation that supports the stocking of opioid antagonist in schools.

Thank you for considering the views of the state's school nurses.