

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 298

Expressing the sense of the Congress that State and local officials should designate school nurses as “first responders” and remove any legal or regulatory barriers that would impede school nurses from responding to a biological or chemical attack.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that State and local officials should designate school nurses as “first responders” and remove any legal or regulatory barriers that would impede school nurses from responding to a biological or chemical attack.

Whereas there are more than 47,000 nurses in the Nation’s elementary and secondary schools;

Whereas some children spend up to 10 hours in school each day;

Whereas school children and teachers work in close proximity to other people, quickening the spread of airborne diseases;

Whereas school nurses are the only professional health care providers in many schools;

Whereas if a child becomes sick or arrives at school sick, a school nurse is often the first medical professional to see, diagnose, and treat the child;

Whereas in a biological or chemical attack on the United States, school nurses would be among the first medical professionals to respond, would put themselves at risk, and would be responsible even for the children and teachers not subject to the attack; and

Whereas school children, including a large number of mainstreamed children with disabilities, may be more vulnerable to biological or chemical attack, and therefore show symptoms sooner than the general population: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that, in
 3 response to the terrorist attacks on the United States on
 4 September 11, 2001, State and local officials should—

5 (1) designate school nurses as “first respond-
 6 ers”, conferring upon them all rights and respon-
 7 sibilities such status implies in a particular State or
 8 locality; and

9 (2) remove any legal or regulatory barriers that
 10 would impede school nurses from doing everything
 11 within medical guidelines for responding to a biologi-
 12 cal or chemical attack.

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