



New York State Association of School Nurses

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an analysis of A8105a/S5804a for the Governor. This proposed legislation would broaden the dissemination of information regarding tick borne illnesses and prevention in schools and libraries, with the collaboration of the Commissioners of Education, Health and Environmental Conservation.

New York is one of a minority of states where 96% of Lyme disease cases have occurred.¹ We have the responsibility to increase tick-borne disease education however possible, and unifying school and public health measures is the best way to do this. Academic success is impacted by student health. Public health education interventions that include a comprehensive community approach are the most successful for our students of all ages.²

Schools may easily dispense educational materials from the Department of Health such as How to Safely Remove a Tick³ and Fight the Bite⁴. Age appropriate materials such as Don't Let a Tick Make You Sick⁵ and Use Insect Repellents Safely⁶ can be incorporated into schools' health education curricula, with coordination by education professionals. This topic complies with the New York State Health Education Standard for Personal Health and Fitness. Learning about tick-borne illness awareness and prevention is a self-management skill, building the functional knowledge of selecting and using health care information to contribute to an individual's health.⁷ This curriculum addition supports the first National

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014). Lyme Disease Data and Statistics Accessed June 10, 2016 from <http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Eight Components of Coordinated School Health. Accessed June 9, 2016 from <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wsc/components.htm>.

³ New York State Department of Health (2013). How to Safely Remove a Tick. Accessed June 7, 2016 from www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/docs/tick_removal_card.pdf.

⁴ New York State Department of Health (2015). Fight the Bite: Tick and Insect Repellents: Deciding of Their Use. Accessed June 7, 2016 from www.health.ny.gov/publications/2749.pdf.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Don't Let a Tick Make You Sick! Accessed June 7, 2016 from www.cdc.gov/ticks/resources/dontletticksbitemecomicgenericFS_508.pdf.

⁶ New York State Department of Health (2002). Use Insect Repellents Safely! Accessed June 7, 2016 from www.health.ny.gov/environmental/pests/dress_to_repel.pdf.

⁷ New York State Education Department (2005). A Guidance Document for Achieving the New York State Standards in Health Education. Accessed June 9, 2016 from www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/guidancedocument4.25.update.pdf.

Health Education Standard is the student comprehension of concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.⁸

It is with support that the New York State Association of School Nurses provides commentary on this bill. Upon the Governor's signature nursing, education and public health professionals align our mutual goals of advocating for the health and educational needs of the children of New York State.

Respectfully submitted,

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⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Adolescent and School Health: National Health Education Standards. Accessed June 9, 2016 from www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/sher/standards/index.htm.