



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
OFFICE OF SENATOR ERIC P. LESSER
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 twitter.com/ericlessor
 facebook.com/EricLesserMA

Contact: Molly Trowbridge
617-722-1291 (o)
508-369-6836 (c)
Molly.Trowbridge@masenate.gov

**MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL NURSE ORGANIZATION ISSUES POSITION
BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO LETTER SPEARHEADED BY SENATOR LESSER
AND SEN. COMERFORD TO GOV. BAKER**

***Brief encourages school nurses to voluntarily assist local boards of health and urges
local boards of health to engage with school nurses***

BOSTON — On Sunday, the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization (MSNO) issued a Position Brief written by Board members in response to the letter sent by Senator Eric P. Lesser, Senator Joanne M. Comerford, and 27 other legislators to Governor Baker. The letter urges Governor Baker to use his emergency authority to expedite and/or waive credentialing requirements to allow school nurses to volunteer to treat COVID-19 patients, as well as to allow school nurses to assist local community health boards with contact tracing efforts. Senator Lesser is a member of the Senate task force led by Senator Comerford to discuss community needs, legislative priorities, and strategies to help residents.

In response, the Position Brief issued by the MSNO supports and encourages school nurses, as current responsibilities allow, to voluntarily assist their local health departments, and urges local boards of health to engage with school nurses interested in volunteering with COVID-19 tracing and surveillance efforts.

"We are appreciative to the President of MSNO, Jenny Gormley, and the members for this show of support," **said Senator Lesser.** "This is an important step in amplifying our public health response. School nurses are ready and willing to provide valuable help with the fight against COVID-19. We appreciate what they do for us every day, and now in response to COVID-19."

"It's no surprise that school nurses are ready and willing to join the fight against COVID-19," **said Senator Comerford.** "They are eternally on the frontline of essential public health efforts. I'm

proud to stand with Senator Lesser and in solidarity with the Massachusetts School Nurse organization."

"The Massachusetts School Nurse Organization, a professional group of 800 MA Registered Nurses working in all types of public and non-public school settings, encourages MA School Nurses, as their current responsibilities allow, to support local boards of health in contact tracing and surveillance to slow the spread of COVID-19 transmission," **said Jenny Gormley, President of the MSNO.** "We request that School Nurses volunteering for these efforts be included by local boards of health when possible."

The Position Brief written by the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization is attached and can be found online at:

<https://msno.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/MSNO-Brief.-MA-SNs-supporting-boards-of-health-during-COVID.-final.pdf>

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