



Dear Chairman and Honorable Committee Members,

March 9, 2026

Support House Bill 7582 and Senate Bill 2873.

On behalf of the Rhode Island Certified School Nurse Association (RICSNA), we respectfully urge your support for **House Bill 7582** and **Senate Bill 2873**, legislation that would strengthen protections for air quality in Rhode Island's schools. School nurses are on the front lines of student health every day, and we regularly care for children whose health is directly affected by environmental conditions within school buildings.

Poor air quality can exacerbate asthma, trigger allergic reactions, increase respiratory illness, and contribute to missed instructional time for students across our state. Additionally, the impact of environmental exposures extends beyond the respiratory system. As cited by the National Association of School Nurses, correlations have been identified between environmental exposures and increasing rates in the incidence and prevalence of pediatric asthma, birth defects, dyslexia, intellectual disability, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism, childhood leukemia, brain cancer, preterm birth, and obesity (Galvez et al., 2019).

Improving school air quality is a critical public health measure. The National Association of School Nurses emphasizes that children's health and learning are strongly influenced by their environment, stating that "the environment is a powerful social determinant of health and a critical factor in children's development and academic performance" (NASN, 2021). Policies that ensure healthy school environments help prevent illness, protect vulnerable students with chronic health conditions, and allow children to fully participate in their education.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island Certified School Nurse Association strongly encourages the General Assembly to support **House Bill 7582** and **Senate Bill 2873** to help ensure that all Rhode Island students learn in safe, healthy environments.

Sincerely,

Rhode Island Certified School Nurse Association

<https://ricsnta.nursingnetwork.com/>

Environmental Health - National Association of School Nurses." www.nasn.org,
www.nasn.org/nasn-resources/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-environmental-health.

Galvez, M., Collins, G., Amler, R. W., Dozor, A., Kaplan-Liss, E., Forman, J., Laraque-Arena, D., Lawrence, R., Miller, R., Miller, K., Sheffield, P., Zajac, L., & Landrigan, P. J. (2019). Building New York State centers of excellence in children's environmental health: A replicable model in a time of uncertainty. *American Journal of Public Health*, 109(1), 108–112. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2018.304742>