

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5008

By Committee on Health and Human Services

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the designation of school nurses as first responders.

WHEREAS, Subsequent to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, anthrax was used as a bio-terrorist attack; and

WHEREAS, Children are more vulnerable to chemical agents than adults because children breathe more times a minute than adults; and

WHEREAS, A release of a biological or chemical agent would affect children first, they most likely will be the first to exhibit symptoms; and

WHEREAS, School children and teachers work in close proximity to other people; and

WHEREAS, An outbreak among children could prove to be a launching ground for a wider epidemic; and

WHEREAS, School nurses are a critical link in our nation's health and defense; and

WHEREAS, More than 47,000 nurses are in the nation's schools and would be instrumental as the first health care provider responding to affected children as well as alerting authorities so fewer health problems or deaths occur: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That we urge state and local officials to designate school nurses as first responders to a biological or chemical attack; and

Be it further resolved: That state and local representatives remove any legal or regulatory barriers that would prevent a school nurse from responding to a biological or chemical attack; and

Be it further resolved: that the Secretary of State is directed to send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the state board of education, the board of nursing and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.