MICHIGAN NURSE ADMINISTRATOR FORUM (NAF)

www.malph.org/nurse-administrators-forum

June 3, 2013

Robert Swanson
Michigan Department of Community Health
Division of Immunization
Capitol View Building
201 Townsend Street
PO Box 30195
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Swanson,

The Michigan Association of Local Public Health Nurse Administrators Forum (NAF) strongly supports Senate Bills 237-239 that would change required school immunization reporting from 6th to 7th grade. In 2000, Public Act 89 mandated that an immunization assessment be completed for each 6th grade student. In 2010, the law was amended to require vaccination with Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines for students who are in 6th grade and 11 years of age. With Michigan's December 1st cut off for school entry, many children enter 6th grade at 10 years of age. The change to 7th grade reporting would ensure all students are at least 11 years of age.

This would simplify school reporting and follow-up for schools and save assessment time and follow-up for local health departments. In addition, it would significantly decrease the late fall and early winter demand for immunization appointments at provider offices and local health departments as the cohort of children turning 11 years of age from September 1st through November 30th attempt to comply with the requirements.

Sincerely,

Roberta Peacock

Roberta Peacock, RN BSN
NAF Chair

The purpose of the Nurse Administrator Forum is to enhance the health of Michigan citizens, based on our knowledge of Public Health Nursing practice, by providing effective leadership, collaboration, legislative outreach and professional mentoring for Public Health Nurse Administrators.