A complete update is posted on the MASn website as well as a link on how to contact your house and senate legislators.

Legislative Chair Report  
April 30, 2015 – updated August 6, 2015

The following bills are (or were) being monitored during the first session of the 127th Legislature in conjunction with Nancy Dube, DOE School Nurse Consultant.

**LD 123 “An Act to Reduce Youth Cancer Risk” – DID NOT PASS**

This bill prohibits tanning facilities and operators from allowing individuals who have not attained 18 years of age to use tanning devices. A letter of support from MASN was submitted to the Committee on Health and Human Services. The bill was defeated in the Senate.

**LD 152 “An Act to Encourage Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation to be Taught in High School” – DID NOT PASS**

A letter in opposition from the DOE was submitted to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. The committee recommendation is for “ought not to pass” and is expected to be defeated.

**LD 471 “An Act to Improve Child Vaccination Rates” – DID NOT PASS**

This bill requires a parent or guardian who is seeking a philosophical exemption to routine childhood vaccination when enrolling a child in school or a licensed day care facility to present written documentation signed by a health care practitioner that the health care practitioner has reviewed with the parent information about the risks and benefits of immunization that is consistent with information published by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A hearing is scheduled for May 11 @ 9:30 am with the Health and Human Services Committee.
LD 473 “Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services To Jointly Adopt Rules To Protect Children's Health – DID NOT PASS

This resolve directs the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services to jointly amend their rules on immunization requirements for schoolchildren to establish requirements for what are commonly known as Tdap and meningitis vaccinations before the start of school year 2016–2017.

A hearing has not been scheduled at this time with the Health and Human Services Committee.

LD 556 “An Act To Require Public Schools To Offer Instruction Related to Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and the Use of an Automated External Defibrillator” – PASSED – AMENDED

This bill requires public schools to offer training to students on how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use automated external defibrillators in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Education. The rules must be designed to ensure that the training requirements can be met without a public school's being required to expand or modify its activity so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

Nancy Dube, DOE School Nurse Consultant submitted testimony in opposition to the bill at the hearing. On April 21st, the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Work Session it was voted as “Ought to pass – amended.” The amended document has not been posted.

LD 557 “An Act To Provide Reasonable Accommodations for School Attendance for Children with Disabilities for Whom Medical Marijuana Has Been Recommended” – PASSED – AMENDED

This bill:
1. Provides that a school board may not prohibit the possession on school grounds of medical marijuana in a nonsmokeable form by the parent or guardian of a child with a disability for whom medical marijuana has been recommended by the child's health care provider as a reasonable accommodation necessary for that child to attend events held on school grounds; and
2. Provides that a child with a disability may not be denied eligibility to attend school solely because the child requires medical marijuana in a noninhalable form as a reasonable accommodation necessary for the child to attend school.

Nancy Dube, DOE School Nurse Consultant submitted testimony to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee neither for or against this bill citing several concerns and challenges. The Committee has tabled the bill at this date.

**LD 606 “An Act to Remove the Philosophical Exemption from the Immunization Requirements for School Students and Employees of Nursery Schools and Health Care Facilities” – DID NOT PASS**

Current law allows exemptions because of a person's philosophical beliefs from immunization requirements for students in elementary and secondary schools and postsecondary schools and employees of nursery schools and health care facilities. This bill removes those exemptions. The bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to remove any immunization exemptions because of philosophical beliefs from its rules.

A hearing is scheduled for May 11 @ 9:30 am with the Health and Human Services Committee.

**LD 711 "An Act To Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools" – DID NOT PASS**

This bill requires that, by September 1, 2017, each school administrative unit ensure that its secondary schools' school days start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and that there be at least 11 consecutive hours of uninterrupted time from the end of a class, extracurricular activity, athletic practice or any other school activity to the start of the next school day. A school administrative unit is required to submit a compliance plan. Units that do not comply face reductions in the state share of funding attributable to the cost of the components of essential programs and services.

A letter of support from MASN was submitted to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. The committee work session on April 9th resulted in a divided report.
LD 852 "An Act To Establish Maine's School Beverage Standards" – DID NOT PASS

This bill limits the beverages public schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program may sell to water, 100% fruit or vegetable juice with no added sugar, no- fat or low-fat milk, including flavored milk and sparkling water with natural flavoring.

A letter of support from MASN was submitted to the Health and Human Services Committee. The committee work session on April 27th resulted in “ought not to pass.”

LD 950 "An Act To Prohibit Discrimination against a Person Who Is Not Vaccinated" – DID NOT PASS

Right to refuse vaccinations Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person, employer or educational institution may not discriminate against an individual because that individual has refused a vaccination.

A public hearing with the Committee on Judiciary is scheduled for May 4 @ 9:30 am

LD 1076 “An Act To Enact the Vaccine Consumer Protection Program”

This bill establishes the Vaccine Consumer Protection Program within the Department of Health and Human Services and describes the services provided under the program.

The Health and Human Services Committee has scheduled a hearing for May 11 @ 9:30 am. – PASSED

May 7th Addendum

LD 1380 "An Act To Legalize, Tax and Regulate Marijuana" – DID NOT PASS

This bill addresses the use, possession, cultivation, manufacturing, testing, transportation and sale of marijuana and marijuana products.
The bill legalizes the possession of up to an ounce of marijuana for a person 21 years of age and older, taxes sales of marijuana and regulates the marijuana industry, which in the language of the bill is conducted by marijuana establishments.

MASN is in opposition to this bill and will provided testimony or letter citing the NASN January 2015 position statement which states it “believes any marijuana made available for the purpose of adult recreational use facilitates youth access and is not in the best interest of the health and well-being of students.” Pat Endsley of MASN was a co-author of this position statement.

The bill has been referred to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. No hearing date has been scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis Hogan RN