

**TALKING POINTS FOR PRESS CALLS  
RELATED TO THE 11/2/06 WALL STREET JOURNAL  
ARTICLE ON RATIOS OF NURSES TO STUDENTS**

NASN provided the reporter with extensive background information and strong position statements on the ratios of nurses to students throughout the country. We explained that ½ of the United States have better staffing ratios than 10 years ago, but most are still a long way from a baseline goal of 1:750 well children. If you receive any calls as a result of the article, below are a few talking points to assist with providing a consistent response to the issue. In addition, the NASN Web site has pertinent position statements and issue briefs available as reference points.

- Safe care for every child means that every child needs access to a school nurse.
- Emphasize that the ratio goal of 1:750 is for **WELL** children.
  - The ratio needs to be adjusted for schools with a significant number of special needs children and for rural areas where nurses have to travel great distances between schools.
  - When schools do not have an adequate ratio, parents need to **SPEAK UP** and let school boards and legislators know that the health needs of their children are not being adequately covered during the school day.
- The health needs of today's children are increasing in many different aspects and children are requiring more care during the school day on a regular basis.
  - 12 out of every 100 children with asthma
  - 13.5% of students are overweight and at risk for developing health problems including type II diabetes – approximately 1 in every 400-500 children and adolescents has type I diabetes
  - 10% of children have a mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder causing some level of impairment and 3 to 5% of children have been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder
  - 5% of all children will experience at least a single seizure, and approximately 1% of children develop epilepsy
  - 5% of children have been diagnosed with a food allergy
  - 7 to 9% of students yearly report being threatened by a weapon on school property