



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The first school nurse in Minnesota was hired in 1909 to address issues of infectious disease, poverty, immigration, truancy, and lack of social services; and
- WHEREAS: Virginia Rice, R.N., became Minnesota's first school nurse in October of 1909, when the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education appointed her to examine school children and report physical ailments and defects which threatened the health of children or their progress in school; and
- WHEREAS: While school children today are healthier and attend school regularly, they are threatened by new infectious agents and pandemic influenza, and may also be challenged by poverty, truancy, and lack of family support; and
- WHEREAS: In 1909, many children with chronic and disabling health conditions did not attend school. Today, federal laws guarantee educational access for all children. Therefore, more students with chronic health needs attend school, requiring the expertise of a school nurse to address health issues from asthma to seizures; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately 600 licensed school nurses in Minnesota care for nearly 850,000 students, upholding the belief that all children have the right to an education and that society as a whole benefits when all children are educated and healthy; and
- WHEREAS: School nurses are professional health care providers who identify health concerns, provide safe management of children's health problems at school, reduce absences, and save lives. Additionally, school nurses promote health and wellness activities, including exercise and better nutrition, to help all students increase academic performance; and
- WHEREAS: For 100 years, the School Nurse Organization of Minnesota has been an important link between education and health.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Friday, November 6, 2009, to be:

SCHOOL NURSING DAY

in the state of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this fifth day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the State the one hundred fifty-first.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE