

Senator:

My name is Frank Pagurko, and I write to you on behalf of the Rio Grande Foundation, an economic policy think tank based in Albuquerque. We work to promote the interests of the people of New Mexico through free market policy.

In the interest of New Mexico students, I strongly urge you to **vote NO** on SB 31, the “Full Time School Nurse” bill. Parents, teachers, and local administrators know what their students need better than do legislators in Santa Fe. This bill further seizes decision-making from local school districts and raises their administrative costs. Mandating higher costs for New Mexico schools regardless of local concerns will not produce better outcomes for students. School districts should be allowed to determine for themselves what they need and how to meet those needs. New Mexico is also facing a shortage of nurses. As the state reels from the Covid-19 pandemic and faces an aging population, the last thing it needs is legislators instituting mandates on schools that they may not need or be able to meet. SB 31 provides no support for its mandate but simply expects school districts to produce the funds to supply a salary for a new employee and fill a position for which there are simply too few qualified job-seekers.

Please allow local communities to decide what is best for them and their students and vote no on SB 31. Thank you.



Frank Pagurko III