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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 19-H 5323  
AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION – HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS  
March 13, 2019**

The ACLU is highly supportive of H 5323, which would allow the use of over-the-counter medication and products by high school students while on school property.

Current Department of Health regulations require “parental authorization” for the use of such products. However, we fully believe that students should, universally and independent of any outside approval, be afforded the right to self-administer over-the-counter products, such as Tums or Midol, while they are on school property.

Most likely, students already ignore, or are possibly unaware of, these current regulations. We believe that schools provide an important place to learn about responsible medication use. The ability for students to openly self-administer and self-regulate common, over-the-counter medication provides critical skills for engaging with more intense medical treatments and drugs in the future.

We are glad to see that similar legislation is being considered today which would afford students the right to bring and use sunscreen at school. However, the fact that the same student who brings sunscreen wouldn't be allowed to use sunburn lotion highlights the absurdity of the current regulations. School is intended to assist students in their quest for autonomy, and our laws should afford students the right to provide personal care to their bodies without permission. The authority to treat a cold, menstrual cramps, or a headache should rest within the student themselves.

Thank you for our considering our views, and we urge swift passage of this bill.