



**SCHOOL-BASED
HEALTH ALLIANCE**

Redefining Health for Kids and Teens

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Representative McCarthy, and Senator Schumer:

The undersigned national organizations are writing to express their support for H.R.2075/ S.1013, the School-Based Health Centers Reauthorization Act of 2019—a bipartisan bill to increase young people’s access to primary and mental health care services through school-based health centers (SBHCs). Different from previous versions, the modified language of this bill enables Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to be eligible entities under the SBHC program.

Currently, more than 2,500 school-based health centers (SBHCs) in 48 states and the District of Columbia serve as critical access points that provide comprehensive care to children and adolescents in their school, a location that is safe, convenient, and accessible. SBHCs provide this care through partnerships with community health providers, such as Federally Qualified Health Centers, public health departments, hospitals, schools, and other community institutions. They serve a primarily low-income and medically underserved population of children and adolescents.

At the heart of the SBHC model is the recognition that healthy students make better learners. Our communities need a powerful, evidence-based solution like school-based health care to address the root causes of chronic absenteeism, academic failure, and civic disengagement.

The reauthorization of the school-based health center program is a step forward to ensure all children and youth are empowered to be healthy and thriving and will allow SBHCs to readily expand their current services, increasing capacity as well as using innovative approaches such as telehealth to reach remote communities in need of care.

We therefore respectfully urge Congress to include an extension of the SBHC program in any final health package considered by the House and Senate this year.

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Federation of Teachers
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association of Ambulatory Behavioral Health
ASTDD
Center for Health and Health Care in Schools
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Children's Health Fund
Children's Hospital Association
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
EverThrive Illinois
Every Child Matters
Families USA



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Fizika Group, LLC
Futures Without Violence
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Guttmacher Institute
Healthy Schools Campaign
Healthy Schools Network
Healthy Teen Network
International OCD Foundation
Mental Health America
MomsRising
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Work
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Board for Certified Counselors
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
National Hispanic Medical Association
Prevent Blindness
Religious Institute
RESULTS
Sandy Hook Promise
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
The American Counseling Association
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The Trevor Project
Trust for America's Health

CC: The Honorable Lamar Alexander The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, House Committee on Energy and
Education, Labor and Pensions Commerce

The Honorable Patty Murray The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, House Committee on Energy and
Education, Labor and Commerce
Pensions