

Contact: Karen Saverino
October 23, 2009

202-464-6506
ksaverino@metgroup.com

National Assembly Celebrates School-Based Health Advocates Reception on Capitol Hill Honors members of Congress and staff

Washington, DC, October 22, 2009 – The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care (NASBHC) recognized four Members of Congress as “super heroes” and 10 members from their staffs as “super staff” during a reception on Capitol Hill. Included in three health care reform bills being vetted now, school-based health centers (SBHCs) are a critical component in the nation’s effort to help keep young people healthy and in school learning.

Among the “superheroes” honored were **Rep. John Dingell (D-MI)**, **Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA)**, **Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)** and **Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)**.

Congressman Dingell, the longest serving member in the House of Representatives and a long-time advocate for health care reform has served as a champion for SBHCs for more than a decade. “I am a proud supporter of school-based health care. Students with access to school-based health care are in a position to have their health issues discovered sooner rather than later. Further, for many of the children who do have access to school-based health care, it is their only form of healthcare, making it critical to support these centers. I also believe that entire communities can benefit from school-based health centers. Parents can take comfort in the fact that their children are receiving excellent health care while in school. These centers also provide parents with a practicable, alternative option to private health care,” Congressman Dingell said.

Congressman Sarbanes urged that the new legislation will help close the discrepancy in how SBHCs are currently reimbursed. “Children spend five days a week in school so there is no better place to deliver regular primary and preventive care,” said Congressman Sarbanes. “By supporting school-based health centers, we can give parents more choices and make it easier for children to get regular checkups so that we can catch health problems sooner.”

Congressman Towns said school-based health provide access for those without insurance or a medical home. “School based health centers provide an invaluable resource to thousands of students who would not otherwise have access to quality health care. Not only does their work benefit the students who can receive quality care in a comfortable environment, but it also benefits parents who might otherwise be concerned for the safety of their children. Parents trust the care provided by these centers, and as a parent and grandparent, I strongly believe in the work that they do.”

Congresswoman Capps explained that she took school-based health care on because she is a former school nurse who knows the value of having health care inside schools. “We want to

bring health care to where people are...and young people are in school. You can also reach students' families in this way," she said.

"Super staff" honored include:

Katie Campbell, a policy analyst for Rep. Dingell; Oliver Kim, senior policy advisor for Rep. Dingell; Ericka Smith from Rep. Bart Stupak's (D-MI) office; Jackie Parker from Sen. Carl Levin's (D-MI) office; Sarah Ethington, legislative assistance to Rep. Capps; Camille Sealy and Andy Schneider, committee staff from Rep. Waxman's (D-CA) office; Frederick Isasi from Sen. Bingaman's (D-NM) office; Jeremy Sharp from Sen. Christopher Dodd's (D-Connecticut) office, who sits on the Subcommittee for Children and Families; and Aaron Sporck from Rep. Shelly Moore Capito's (D-W VA) office.

"School-based health care is finally getting the recognition it deserves thanks to the works of hundreds of advocates and a handful of very special champions who have helped ensure that school-based health is included in our nation's health care reform," said , NASBHC Executive Director.

NASBHC is the national voice for school-based health care. Founded in 1995 to promote and support the SBHC model, NASBHC strives for a future where all children and adolescents are achieving at their fullest potential. The organization advocates for national policies, programs, and funding to expand and strengthen SBHCs, while also supporting the movement with training and technical assistance.

NOTE TO EDITOR: PHOTOS OF EACH AWARD RECIPIENT ARE AVAILABLE.

The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to improve the health status of children and youth by advancing and advocating for school-based health care.