

September 15, 2009

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Olympia Snowe
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Stabenow, Snowe, and Bennet:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to offer our support for the Healthy Schools Act of 2009 (S. 1034). Every child in America deserves an equal opportunity to be healthy and to succeed in school. Too many school children today experience the harmful effects of poor nutrition, violence, tobacco and substance use and chronic diseases – all of which affect learning performance – and are 100% preventable if identified and treated early.

To protect the health, safety and well being of children and to promote their educational success, many communities across this country are providing quality medical and counseling services where children grow and learn: their schools.

School-based health centers have a proven track record for improving children's access to health care, especially to students who are the most vulnerable and least likely to obtain care through a traditional health care delivery system. School-based health centers partner with parents in the health education and health supervision of their child, as well as with the school to address all barriers to learning.

We, the undersigned, support school-based health centers as an important strategy for improving children's healthy development and enhancing the learning experience. School-based health centers do not receive the acknowledgement and funding from the federal government necessary to sustain this critical model of health care. In many cases, they do not even receive reimbursement for SCHIP and Medicaid covered services to patients enrolled in the program.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you to advance this proposal to final passage, including any effort to incorporate these provisions in whatever health reform legislation is considered on the Senate floor in the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

ACCESS Community Health and Research Center-
Child and Adolescent Health Program
Action for Children North Carolina
Advocates for Youth
Afterschool Alliance
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American College Health Association
American Counseling Association
American Diabetes Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Humane Association
American Lung Association
American Nurses Association
American School Health Association
Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families
ASCD
Baldwin Family Health Care – Michigan
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Beckett Family Consulting
Broader, Bolder Approach to Education
California School Health Centers Association
Capitol Area Community Services – Michigan
Centerstone of Indiana
The Child and Family Policy Center - Iowa
Children's Aid Society
Children's Alliance
Children First for Oregon
Children's Health Fund
Children Now
The Children's Partnership
Coalition for Community Schools

Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Legacy Foundation
Commerce City Community Health Services
Comprehensive School Health Coordinators' Association – Michigan
Connecticut Commission on Children
The Corner Health Center – Michigan
Covering Kids & Families of Indiana
DC Assembly on School Health Care
Detroit Black Nurses Association, Inc – Michigan
Family Connection of Easton, Inc.
First Focus
Family Health Center – Michigan
Harbor Beach Community Hospital – Michigan
Health Delivery Inc. – Michigan
Health Department of Northwest Michigan
Healthy Teen Network
Henry Ford Health System – Michigan
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
Indiana School Health Network
Ingham County Health Department – Michigan
Ironmen Health Center - Michigan
John T. Macdonald Foundation School Health Initiative
Kalamazoo Communities In Schools – Michigan
Kalkaska Memorial Health Center – Michigan
Kentucky Youth Advocates
Learning Well, Inc. – Indiana
Louisiana Assembly on School Based Health Care
Maine Assembly on School-based Health Care
Marquette County Health Department, Community Health Division
Massachusetts Coalition of School-Based Health Centers

Metro Solutions – Michigan
Michigan Association of Health Plans
Michigan's Children
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency
The Michigan League for Human Services
Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health
Michigan Primary Care Association
Michigan School Health Coordinator Association
Mid-Michigan Health Services
Mid-Michigan Medical Offices Roscommon
Mid-Michigan Health Park – Houghton Lake
Middle Cities Education Association - Michigan
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National American Arab Nurses Association
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children
and Youth
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners –
Michigan Chapter
National Association of Pupil Services Administrators
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of Social Workers – Michigan Chapter
National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education
National Collaboration for Youth
National Congress of American Indians
National Council of Urban Indian Health
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
New Haven Adolescent Health Program - Michigan
National Indian Health Board
New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care

New Mexico Voices for Children
New York State Coalition for School-Based Health Centers
North Carolina School Community Health Alliance
North Star Academy High School/Polaris Middle School – Michigan
Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency
Ohio School Based Health Care Association
Oakland Primary Health Care Services – Michigan
Oakwood Healthcare System – Michigan
Oregon School-Based Health Care Network
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Powell Township School – Michigan
Public Education Network
Elizabeth B. Ritter, Connecticut State Representative
Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics
Saginaw Black Nurses' Association – Michigan
Save the Children
Sawyer Community Center, G.R.E.A.T. Program – Michigan
School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan
School Social Work Association of America
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States –
SEICUS
Shaheen Associates – Michigan
St. Johns Health System – Michigan
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of New Jersey
Summit Youth Services Centers, Frisco, CO
Teen HYPE Youth Development Program
Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
United Ways of California
University of Michigan C. S. Mott Children's Hospital
Van Buren Community Mental Health Authority
Voices for America's Children
Voices for Ohio's Children
Voices for Utah Children
Voices for Virginia's Children
Wildcat Wellness Center – Michigan