

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services and Education
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services and Education
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As your Subcommittee considers the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include \$10 million in funding for School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs). Funding for the operation of SBHCs would provide preventive health care and health education to countless children and adolescents across the country in a manner that is highly beneficial, cost-effective, and convenient.

As health care providers, SBHCs provide high quality, comprehensive medical care, mental health services, preventive care, social services, and youth development to nearly 2 million children and adolescents in 49 states and the District of Columbia. By providing these services at school, where students spend most of their day, these centers provide a convenient access point to health care in a setting families are familiar with and trust. Furthermore, SBHCs provide care that is individualized and responsive to local community needs, as the services they provide are approved by local school boards.

Additionally, as Congress aims to improve the overall health and education for young people, it is clear that SBHCs provide significant cost-savings in our local communities. Students who utilize SBHCs are less likely to go to the emergency room or be hospitalized, keeping health care costs down. Academically, SBHCs have proven results as they help increase attendance, reduce dropout rates, improve school climate, and support students' academic achievement. SBHCs help students with chronic diseases manage their health, respond to injuries or illnesses on school grounds, and provide critical early intervention and prevention services.

SBHCs can have a profound impact on individual students and schools overall. By improving health outcomes and academic performance, while reducing health care costs, it is clear that School Based Health Centers are a cost-effective tool with tremendously benefits—one we would be remiss to not utilize. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


LOIS CAPPS

Member of Congress

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John Long Jr.

Adam B Schiff

Jan Schaly

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List of Signatories

**Letter to Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
Re: Support for School-Based Health Centers in Fiscal Year 2016**

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