



March 12, 2010

**Statement
Of
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
On**

SB 400 An Act Concerning Insurance Reimbursement Payments To School-Based Health Centers

Good morning Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Christine Capiello and I am the Director of Government Relations for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Connecticut. I am on testifying on SB 400 An Act Concerning Insurance Reimbursement Payments To School-Based Health Centers.

We understand that while the Connecticut Legislature looks to address the healthcare problem in Connecticut, school-based health centers are an obvious place for the delivery of healthcare as every child in Connecticut must attend school. We know from our experience when we were a health plan in the Husky program for more than 10 years, that school-based health centers were an important part of the delivery of care for the Medicaid Managed Care program.

While we believe that this is important goal and join in the effort to address the problem. However, we are not sure that this approach will reach the desired goal because school-based health clinics are not equipped, like a physician's office is, to be part of the insurer/provider billing structure that is in place. For example, many school-based health clinics are not set up to be able to collect copayments, coinsurance, etc. Therefore, if an Anthem member, or theoretically any member who had insurance with co-pays and deductibles as most commercial insurance plans have, went to obtain services from there (whether it is child or parent) the clinic would not be able to take the co-pay, etc. that is required under the member contract. This was not a concern when we participated in the Husky program because there were no co-pays or deductibles.

Another common commercial insurance practice that is a barrier is in order for a provider to contract with Anthem (or theoretically any insurer); the provider must meet the insurer billing and other contract requirements, including referrals to other participating providers. It is our understanding that all school-based clinics are not on equal footing in their ability to fulfill these requirements.

Another point worth considering is that some school-based health clinics are fully funded by the city/town/municipality where the clinic is located. Therefore, parents of children who are served by these clinics have no financial responsibility for the services, in the event that their insurance doesn't pay. Anthem has a clause in its coverage documents that excludes Anthem's coverage of any services for which the member has no financial responsibility. As we remain concerned about the rising cost of healthcare, this seems to be counter to that because it would have insurance paying for something that would otherwise be free and therefore increase the cost of health insurance.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this bill and welcome any questions you may have.