

14 Pearl Hill Street  
Milford, CT 06460  
February 20, 2012

CT Legislature Appropriations Committee  
Hartford, CT

Re: Funding for School Based Health Centers

Dear Members of the CT State Legislature Appropriations Committee:

I am writing in support of continued level or enhanced funding for the School Based Health Centers. These are a critical part of the medical, dental and mental health system for many of our state's children.

I work in the public health area, and I am aware of how essential these services are for many children whose parents cannot easily take time off work to address their family's acute care needs. What better way to provide access to critical services for our state's children than in the location where they already spend many hours each week?

And perhaps even more than acute care, the School Based Health Centers serve as a backbone of the health education and prevention system. They are a vehicle for providing immunizations, and for offering information on critical public health topics such as prevention of obesity, tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse. The professionals at these Centers help our children to make educated decisions about their lives – surely a vital part of their total education.

Any consideration to cutting State funding for School Based Health Centers does an injustice to our children in particular and to the future of our State.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Lane, MPH