

Dear Sir:

My name is Dr. Kurt Myers, the medical director of Hartford Public Schools. I have been in charge of the school based health centers in Hartford for twenty-five years and am quite comfortable with commenting on this bill

I am diametrically opposed to this bill as currently crafted.

The Hartford Schools collect \$2.2 million each year in billings on patients seen in the School based health centers in our city. We are the largest school based health center system in the state.

It would be a virtual impossibility to bill private insurance for services provided in the clinics for several reasons. Third party private insurance uniformly has a co-pay associated with it. According to Medicare Compliance guidelines, the failure to collect co-pays on third party insured patients, while billing for services provided, constitutes billing fraud.

There is no way that any school system in the state could collect cash or check co-pays from students seen in the health centers. Cash is not an item carried by most students, and the idea that we or a third party biller, would bill for the co-pay is tantamount to non-collection.

Third party insured patients amount to 2-4% of our patients in the Hartford Schools. Most of these patients have identified primary care providers. We do our utmost to connect these patients with their private physician as opposed to duplicating these services.

I would ask that you review this bill carefully in light of the above information and would be happy to assist in crafting appropriate legislation to ensure that clinics maximize revenue.

Sincerely,

Kurt J. Myers, M.D.
Medical Director
Hartford Public Schools