

March 5, 2015

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Gerratana, and Representative Dillon:

My name is Erica Agnello and I am the Mother of two students who have used the services of the School Based Health Center at Pawcatuck Middle School. I am submitting this testimony on HB 6824 in opposition to the budget and the cuts it contains to the School Based Health Centers.

My children have both been lucky enough to experience the SBHC. My daughter has used the school physical portion required for enrollment as well as sports.

My son has been helped tremendously through this program. There was one incident in particular where the SBHC was a life saver for him. At the end of this past summer, my son was to have an appointment at the Naval Ambulatory Care Center on the Subbase, NL, with his Primary care Physician. Circumstances out of my control, my access to the NACC was not granted, and his appointment cancelled therefore he could not get the medicine he needed for school. In a panic, I called the SBHC and asked if there was anything they could do to help get him a refill. If he was unable to receive it, there would have been a great effect on his ability to focus at school. After looking into his record, the nurse practitioner was able to give one months worth to hold him over until the situation with the Subbase could be resolved.

Without the SBHC, my son would not have been able to get the help and medicine he needed. I feel it is an asset necessary for the well being and health of our children and I know that there are many other families that depend on the SBHC as it helps fill the gap for health concerns and needs of the kids, that might not otherwise be met on the outside.

Sincerely,
Erica Agnello