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3/12/2015

Re: School Based Health Centers

Working in the Emergency Department for the past 14 years allowed me to work on the front lines with patients struggling with health care access. I saw multiple children each shift that could have been cared for in a less acute setting, saving themselves time and the state money. This past year I was able to begin working in two of the new School Based Health Clinics in Hartford. On a daily basis I am able to contribute to keeping children out of the Emergency Department and in class. By addressing illnesses sooner we are able to stop their spread. Providing treatment and monitoring of chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes helps keep children in the classroom as well as the acute conditions such as bronchitis, strep throat, gastroenteritis, conjunctivitis, allergies, and colds. Routine physicals and immunizations provided in the clinics prevent outbreaks such as the most recently seen measles outbreak.

Improved attendance is a direct correlation to improved graduation rates which leads to more productive members of a community. Because School Based Health Centers keep children in school, we should be working towards creating more School Based Health Centers.

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