

Testimony of  
Nancy Mayeda-Brescia, OTD, APRN, MBA, NCSN  
APRN, Hartford Public High, School Based Health Center  
55 Forest Street, Hartford, CT  
March 16, 2015

Raised Bill 917: *An Act concerning School-Based Health Centers*

Good Day.

My name is Nancy Mayeda-Brescia, APRN, and I am the Nurse Practitioner assigned to Hartford Public High School's **School Based Health Center (SBHC)**. I am writing testimony in support of RB 917 as it directly impacts student access to immediate medical care so that students may stay in school learning—not missing valuable school time. When students are not in school, they are not productive learners.

In our clinic, we provide a comprehensive array of direct service provision such as dental services, medical services, and behavioral health services. Our team of Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Medical Assistants, and Mental Health Clinicians comprise a *direct front* to assist all students who attend school in the City of Hartford. Assistance comes in many forms—from direct medical care including vaccinations, asthma treatment, medication provision, and specialty medical referrals; all while collaborating with a student's primary care provider for continuity of care/management.

By establishing a SBHC definition and solid standards, this will ensure consistency in the comprehensive model of high quality SBHC's throughout our state.

Statistical data suggest that SBHCs are well positioned to address our student's variety of mental health, dental, and medical needs in order to remain in school, attentive to learning, and prepare for life after high school. We make sure our graduating students have all the necessary vaccinations and physical exams *necessary* for college entrance. There is NO excuse why our Hartford graduates would be held out of continuing their education on a medical basis!

From 2009-2013, mental health visits to SBHCs increased by 11% (DPH data, 2013). There are more than 40,000 children and adolescents that receive service annually from SBHCs in over 130,000 visits. We need to make sure that the future of our SBHCs is a solid progression of integrated school health as "healthy kids make better learners".

