

Robert Dudley, MD, MEd, FAAP  
Community Health Center of New Britain  
85 Lafayette Street  
New Britain, CT 06051

March 14, 2015

Re: RB 917

I am Robert Dudley, MD, MEd, a general pediatrician in New Britain and Community Health Center, Inc.'s Medical Director for School Based Health Services. I also act as the New Britain School District's medical advisor and serve on the Connecticut State American Academy of Pediatrics Executive Board. I am writing today to lend my support to RB 917, a bill which proposes to codify a definition of School Based Health Centers and allows the Commissioner of Public Health to adopt minimum standards for SBHCs into regulation.

As the Co-Chair of the Department of Public Health's School Based Health Center Advisory Committee, I have been able to see the need for this legislation and the consensus that exists between SBHC advocates and leaders, state government officials, community and school based providers and the education community to move forward with this legislation. School Based Health Centers are a vital point of entry and access for Connecticut's children to medical, behavioral and dental health services that they often can not get elsewhere. Students are able to meet entry requirements and/or receive acute care and get back to learning, often with significant reductions in lost education time. They also provide an important link to medical homes and a valuable route for care coordination.

Because School Based Health Centers exist in many forms and are funded in a variety of ways, this legislation serves a vital function of helping set minimum standards both for what constitutes a School Based Health Center, as well as a path to assure that that this vital safety net maintains and advances the health of students and communities. I strongly urge you to support its adoption.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Dudley, MD, MEd, FAAP