Good evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Adam R. Kravet and I am a registered voter in Windham. I am here today in my role as a father of two students at the Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy.

I am here to testify on the Governor’s proposed biennial budget. I am especially concerned about yet another proposed cut of almost $200,000 to the School Based Health Clinics line item in the Department of Public Health (DPH) budget.

I care about children. Every child deserves a chance to be healthy and to reach their full potential in life. But many children have health problems that make it difficult for them to learn and succeed. We want young people in CT to be healthy and thriving. School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are an effective, integrated and cost-effective way to help young people with their health challenges – including their mental health issues, their physical health concerns, or their oral health challenges. Supporting students with their health challenges where they spend most of their waking hours during the week – right in schools – also contributes to keeping them learning in classrooms, reducing absenteeism and improving graduation rates for youth.

Recently, our son was experiencing symptoms but it was unclear why, or whether or not he was well enough to attend school. As part of the School Based Health Clinic our school’s APRN took a few minutes to check on our son each day for an entire week, prescribed medication and referred him to an allergist who revealed our son was also experiencing asthma symptoms. Due to the APRN’s dedication and caring, our son was only absent for two days, one due to his illness and one...
be examined by a pediatric allergist in Hartford. Without this type of program we would not have felt comfortable letting him continue to attend school during this ordeal and we would not have realized there was a need to consult with a specialist.

Many students do not have health insurance and many of those that do contend with high deductibles and copays that have a chilling effect on seeking care. A School Based Health Center adds value to our educational facilities and provides a verifiable benefit to all that attend. Please take that into account when determining whether this program is worthy of funding.

I urge you to protect the health and well-being of our youngest CT residents by supporting the essential and core services that School Based Health Centers provide. Please maintain funding for SBHC’s in our state so that young people can continue to thrive and stay in school. This is critical to their future and to the future of our state.

Thank you in advance for supporting School Based Health Centers!