On Governor’s proposed Biennial Budget FY2020-21

H.B. 7148 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIAL ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFORE

02/27/2019

Marissa Van Hennik, PA-C

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

My name is Marissa Van Hennik, PA-C and I am a registered voter in Wallingford. I am writing today in my role as a Physician Assistant in a Hartford School Based Health Center.

I am writing 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.

We provide the most cost effective efficient care to children in our community. A perfect example is a 12 year old Asthmatic student I treat daily. He has been hospitalized multiple times in the past for his asthma. He has been in our school district since pre-K. His mother feels blessed that he does not miss multiple days of school since I can administer his Asthma treatment at school. I have been able to initiate nebulizer treatments and administer steroids for a fraction of the cost to the state. He will not miss school today, he will not cost the state thousands of dollars. Because I am able to initiate prompt treatment, I can prevent his asthma from worsening and decrease the risk of him being admitted to the hospital.

Today I saw a 5 year old and 8 year old child, both who had strep throat and their parents were relieved to find out we could diagnose and treat them here in our clinic. With our help, the parents did not have to leave work and risk losing their job. Both families would have ended up in the emergency departments, costing the state much higher costs than our clinic.

These are just a few examples of children I have seen recently. Every day I keep kids in school and out of the Emergency Department. We are here to serve the community, keep kids in school, keep parents working and decrease expenses for the state. Every dollar spent on a School Based Health Center provides exponential savings.

I urge you to protect the health and wellbeing of our youngest CT residents by supporting the essential services that School Based Health Centers provide. Please maintain funding for SBHCs 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 for supporting School Based Health Centers

Marissa Van Hennik PA-C
Medical Provider in Hartford School Based Health Clinic
Marissa.VanHennik@hartfordschools.org
860-695-2444