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Linda Juszczak

April 10, 2013

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The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate, SD-131
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Kingston:

We, the undersigned school administrators, are united in our support for school-based health centers (SBHCs). We are writing to ask for inclusion of \$50 million for the operations of SBHCs in the fiscal year 2014 budget.

SBHCs serve as a vital access point for primary and mental health care for students who otherwise would go without. Studies demonstrate that adolescents are far more likely to come to SBHCs for mental health services than to other community providers.

- School-based health centers offer high quality mental health care by using an integrated strategy for addressing health and mental health issues. Several studies have shown that the barriers experienced in traditional mental health settings – stigma, non-compliance, inadequate access – are overcome in school-based settings.
- In studies of SBHC service utilization, mental health counseling is repeatedly identified as the leading reason for visits by students.

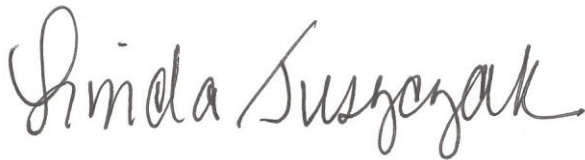
Moreover, poor health severely limits a child's motivation and ability to learn. Research confirms what we have seen with our own eyes: health disparities affect educational achievement. Improving students' health is integral to education success.

- High school SBHC users in one 2000 study had a 50 percent decrease in absenteeism and 25 percent decrease in tardiness two months after receiving school-based mental health and counseling.
- A study of SBHC users found that those who use the clinic for medical purposes had a significant increase in attendance over nonusers.

Students cannot learn if they are sick, and SBHCs are proven to decrease absenteeism and tardiness. In our schools, we have seen SBHCs keep students healthy and at their desks.

As Congress looks to strengthen our education and health care sectors, your committees can make a difference by supporting appropriations for the operations of school-based health centers.

Sincerely,



Linda Juszczak, DNSc, MPH, MS, CPNP, RN
President
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care

Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, California

Dr. Trudy Arriaga, Superintendent, Ventura Unified School District; California

Dorma Baker, Superintendent, Pajaro Valley Unified School District; California

Dr. Daryl Camp, Superintendent, Riverbank Unified School District

Richard Carranza, Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District; California

Dr. John Deasy, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District; California

Robert Frausto, Superintendent, Kerman Unified School District; California

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Dr. Bruce Harter, Superintendent, West Contra Costa Unified School District; California

Bill Kowba, Superintendent, San Diego Unified School District; California

Dr. Debra Lindo, Superintendent, Emery Unified School District; California

Richard Martinez, Superintendent, Pomona Unified School District; California

Kari McVeigh, Superintendent, New Haven Unified School District; California

Marco Petruzzi, Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent, Green Dot Public Schools; California

Jonathan Raymond, Superintendent,
Sacramento City Unified School District;
California

Neil Smith, Co-Superintendent, Berkeley
Unified School District; California

Dr. Tony Smith, Superintendent, Oakland
Unified School District; California

Edward Velasquez,
Superintendent, Lynwood Unified School
District

Kirsten Vital, Superintendent, Alameda
Unified School District; California

Curt Babcock, Superintendent, North
Muskegon Public Schools; Michigan

Mischa Bashir, Superintendent, Inkster
Public Schools; Michigan

Steve Edwards, Superintendent, Reeths-
Puffer Public Schools; Michigan

Daniel Evans, Superintendent, Jackson
Public Schools; Michigan

Jon Fleske, Superintendent, Muskegon
Public Schools; Michigan

Anthony J. Habra, Superintendent,
Rudyard Area Schools; Michigan

Brian Galdes, Superintendent, South
Redford Schools; Michigan

Jason Kennedy, Superintendent, Holton
Public Schools; Michigan

John Krolewski, Superintendent, Bendle
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Tom Livezey, Superintendent, Oakridge
Public Schools; Michigan

Jerry McDowell, Superintendent, Whitehall
District Schools; Michigan

Teresa Weatherall Neal, Superintendent,
Grand Rapids Public Schools; Michigan

Thomas Niczay, Superintendent,
Hamtramck School District; Michigan

Mark Parsons, Superintendent, Manton
Consolidated Schools; Michigan

Dave Peden, Superintendent, Mona
Shores Public Schools; Michigan

Karen Ridgeway, Superintendent, Detroit
Public Schools; Michigan

Nathan Robrahn, Superintendent,
Montague Area Public Schools; Michigan

George Sassin, Superintendent,
Clintondale Community; Michigan

John Silveri, Superintendent, Waterford
School District; Michigan

Stiles X. Simmons, Superintendent,
Baldwin Community; Michigan

Bob Szymoniak, Superintendent, Fruitport
Community Schools; Michigan

Shawn S. Thornton, Superintendent,
Alcona Community Schools; Michigan

Kimberly Tufnell, Superintendent, Gwinn
Area Community; Michigan

Pat Walstra, Superintendent, Orchard View
Schools; Michigan

John VanLoon, Superintendent, Ravenna
Public Schools; Michigan

Christopher A. Wigent, Superintendent,
Wayne RESA; Michigan

Michael F. Wright, Superintendent,
Kalamazoo Public Schools; Michigan

Steve Connolly, Superintendent of
Schools, MSAD 60 (North Berwick); Maine

Joe Findlay, Principal, Nobel High School
(North Berwick); Maine

Katherine Groadin, Superintendent of
Schools, Auburn School Department; Maine

Eileen King, Superintendent of Schools,
AOS 98 (Boothbay Harbor); Maine

Daniel M. Lee, Ed.D, Superintendent of
Schools, Brewster; Maine

James A. Underwood, Superintendent of
Schools, AOS 77, Sunrise County; Maine

William Webster, Superintendent of
Schools, Lewiston Public Schools; Maine

Donna Wolfrom, Ed.D, Superintendent of
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Khalid N. Mumim, Ed. D., Superintendent
of Schools, Caroline County; Maryland

Dr. Aaron Allen, Principal Burns High School, Cleveland County Schools; North Carolina
Carol Battle, Principal, Wayne Middle/High Academy, Wayne County; North Carolina
Dr. John Boldt, Principal, Southern Wayne High School, Wayne County; North Carolina
Dale Ellis, Superintendent, Montgomery County Schools; North Carolina
Sonja Emerson, Principal, Dillard Middle School, Wayne County; North Carolina
Tonya Faison, Principal, Goldsboro High School, Wayne County; North Carolina
DavAnn Hubbard, Principal, Hiawasse Dam Elementary/Middle School, Cherokee County; North Carolina
Della B. Ingram, Principal East Middle School, Montgomery County; North Carolina
David L. Jones, Superintendent, Henderson County; North Carolina
Amy S. Jones, Principal, Crest Middle School, Cleveland County; North Carolina
Leigh Jones, Dalton L. McMichael High School, Rockingham County; North Carolina

Tammy Keel, Principal, Mt. Olive Middle School, Wayne County; North Carolina
Donald L. Martin, Jr., Superintendent, Forsyth County Schools; North Carolina
Dr. Patrick Miller, Superintendent, Greene County Schools; North Carolina
Denise M. Montgomery, Principal, Hillandale Elementary School, Henderson County; North Carolina
S. Danyelle Parker, Principal, Mineral Springs Middle School, Forsyth County; North Carolina
Dr. Steven D. Taylor, Superintendent, Wayne County Public Schools; North Carolina
Sylvester Townsend, Principal, Brogden Middle School, Wayne County; North Carolina
Elaine Wyatt, Head School Counselor, Mitchell County Schools; North Carolina

Rob Saxton, Deputy Superintendent, Oregon Department of Education

cc: Sen. Jerry Moran, Ranking member, Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations

Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking member, House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations