

# Support School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) Funding in FY19

**SIGN-ON DEADLINE: COB March 14, Wednesday**

\*This is a programmatic request\*

Dear Colleague,

We write to ask for your support in requesting \$10 million for funding School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in Fiscal Year 2019 from the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Services (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee.

SBHCs provide preventive health care and health education to countless children and adolescents across the country in a manner that is high quality, cost-effective, and convenient. Amidst the national opioid epidemic, SBHCs offer access to critical mental health services for young people who are victims from the toxic stress of familial addiction. SBHCs are uniquely situated to bring health care professionals and educators together to address such multifaced needs. Continued, robust funding for SBHCs will help ensure that children nationwide have accessible, cost-effective health care that they can easily access.

As health care providers, SBHCs provide high quality, comprehensive medical care, mental health services, preventive care, social services, and youth development to nearly 2 million children and adolescents in 49 states and the District of Columbia. By providing these services at school, where students spend most of their day, these centers provide a convenient access point to health care in a setting that families are familiar with and trust. Furthermore, SBHCs provide care that is individualized and responsive to local community needs.

Please join us in requesting this important funding for School-Based Health Centers. If you would like to sign onto the letter, please contact Wooyoung Lim (Gomez) [Woo.Lim@mail.house.gov](mailto:Woo.Lim@mail.house.gov), Jordan Wolfe (Sarbanes) [Jordan.Wolfe@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jordan.Wolfe@mail.house.gov), or Patrick Rooney (Faso) [Patrick.Rooney@mail.house.gov](mailto:Patrick.Rooney@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

**JIMMY GOMEZ**

**JOHN P. SARBANES**

**JOHN J. FASO**

**Member of Congress**

**Member of Congress**

**Member of Congress**

March XX, 2018

Hon. Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Rosa DeLauro,  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As your Subcommittee considers the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations bill, we are writing to request \$10 million for School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs). Funding for the operation of SBHCs would provide preventive health care and health education to children and adolescents nationwide in a manner that is high quality, cost-effective, and convenient.

As health care providers, SBHCs provide high quality, comprehensive medical care, mental health services, preventive care, social services, and youth development to nearly 2 million children and adolescents in 49 states and the District of Columbia. By providing these services at school, where students spend most of their day, these centers provide a convenient access point to health care in a setting that families are familiar with and trust. Furthermore, SBHCs provide care that is individualized and responsive to local community needs.

Students can attain care in a location that is safe and convenient through SBHCs. Amidst the national opioid epidemic, SBHCs offer access to critical mental health services for young people who are victims from the toxic stress of familial addiction. SBHCs are uniquely situated to bring health care professionals and educators together to address such multifaced needs. As providers of low-cost care to children, SBHCs serve as a key part of our nation's health care safety net. Continued, robust funding for SBHCs will help ensure that children nationwide have accessible, cost-effective health care that they can easily access.

Furthermore, as Congress aims to improve the overall health, education, and safety for young people, it is evident that SBHCs provide significant cost-savings in our local communities. Students who utilize SBHCs are less likely to go to the emergency room or be hospitalized, keeping health care costs down. Academically, SBHCs have proven results as they help increase attendance, reduce dropout rates, improve school climate, and support students' academic achievement. SBHCs help students with chronic diseases manage their health, respond to injuries or illnesses on school grounds, and provide critical early intervention and prevention services.

SBHCs can have a profound impact on individual students and schools overall. By improving health outcomes and academic performance, while reducing health care costs, it is clear that School-Based Health Centers are a cost-effective tool with tremendous benefits—one we would be remiss to not utilize. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

/s/

**JIMMY GOMEZ**

**Member of Congress**

/s/

**JOHN P. SARBANES**

**Member of Congress**

/s/

**JOHN J. FASO**

**Member of Congress**