

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINIC ESTABLISHMENT ACT of 2007

Title: To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the School-Based Health Clinic Program, and for other purposes.

Sponsors: Senators Dodd (D-CT) and Smith (R-OR)

Co-Sponsors: Senators Bingaman (D-NM), Collins (R-ME), Kennedy (D-MA), Snowe (R-ME), Vitter (R-LA)

Short Title: "School-Based Health Clinic Establishment Act of 2007"

Summary: Over 8 million children in the United States currently have no form of health insurance. These children are unable to access preventive health care, which may lead to untreated conditions, unnecessary diseases, and death. School-based health clinics are a demonstrated effective means of bringing preventive and primary care to medically underserved children and adolescents and decreasing academic failure resulting from poor health. There are over 1700 school-based health clinics in 44 states serving approximately 2 million children and yet many of these clinics do not receive any federal support.

Overview of Provisions of the Act:

The School-Based Health Clinic Establishment Act would authorize grant funding for the operation and development of school-based health clinics, which provide comprehensive and accessible primary health care services to medically underserved children youth and families; improve the physical health, the emotional well-being and academic performance of such populations; and work in collaboration with schools to integrate health into the overall school environment.

Eligible entities must be a school-based health clinic that "is located in or near a school facility of a school district or board, is organized through school, community and health provider relationships, is administered by a sponsoring facility; and provides, at a minimum, comprehensive primary health services during school hours to children and adolescents by health professionals in accordance with State and local laws, regulations, established standards, and community practice."

The Act lays out the requirements for submitting an application to the Secretary. It permits the Secretary to give preference to applicants who demonstrate an ability to serve communities with demonstrated health care barriers for children and adolescents, consistently poor standardized health indicator reports for these populations, and high percentages of medically uninsured or under-insured children and adolescents.

The Act authorizes \$50 million for FY 2008 and such sums that may be necessary for fiscal years 2009 through 2012. Funds may be used for acquiring and leasing buildings and equipment, providing training, managing the health clinic programs, paying salaries, and expanding and modernizing existing building for use as a clinic.

The Act also directs the Secretary to establish a program to provide technical and other assistance to SBHCs and to develop and implement a plan for evaluating SBHCs and monitoring performances under the awards.