

S. 1669/H.R. 2870 “Healthy Schools Act of 2007”

Senator Stabenow (D-MI), along with six original co-sponsors and Representative Towns (D-NY) introduced the “Healthy Schools Act of 2007” to address one of our nation’s greatest public health challenges: assuring accessible, affordable, quality health care for low income and underserved children and adolescents. The bill provides a sustainable resource for our nation’s network of over 1,700 school-based health centers (SBHCs) through a commonsense approach that strengthens Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program.

SBHCs are partnerships between schools and community-based health organizations that bring high quality services directly into the school building. More than 1,700 schools offer on-site, comprehensive well care, illness-related care, mental health services, health education and dental care to nearly two million students from rural, suburban, urban, and Native American communities where access to such care is limited or nonexistent.

Currently in the majority of states, SBHCs face a number of state policy barriers that shut them out of SCHIP and Medicaid reimbursement for services delivered to enrollees. Despite the fact that every SBHC in the country sees SCHIP enrollees, only one in four receive any reimbursement from their state SCHIP program.

Under the Act, Medicaid and SCHIP reimbursement to school-based health care safety net providers will be assured for providing health services. The Act establishes a mechanism for States to certify SBHCs to be recognized under Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program for Medicaid and SCHIP-enrolled school children and adolescents.

The Healthy Schools Act of 2007 would:

- Ensure procedures for payment under Medicaid and SCHIP for services provided by school-based health clinics certified by States and Health and Human Services
- Establish a certification procedure for States to certify to the Secretary of that the State has implemented procedures to pay for SCHIP and Medicaid provided health care in a SBHC
- Establishes minimum criteria for “primary health services” as the core group of services offered by a SBHC, including comprehensive health and mental health assessments, intervention and treatment, as well as oral health, social, and health education services.