

A Vote for
School-Based
Health Care
is a Vote for a Healthier America!
www.nasbhc.org

Tips for Getting Others to Call Congress

Have **EVERY** person that walks into the school-based health center make at least one phone call. Here are some tips to make it easy:

- Make the first call to confirm the contact information is correct and your message resonates with your member of Congress.
- Hang a sign explaining the campaign.
- Provide a sample script with the Member's phone numbers on it.
- Have a phone or cell phone available for callers' use.
- Use the Congressional toll free number 1-800-828-0498.
- Designate space in the waiting area for the phone calls.

Spreading the Word Beyond the Walls of the School-Based Health Center

- Forward the request for action to all of your contacts via email.
- Reach out to other student activity groups, such as the Student Council and Debate Team, and ask them help in your campaign.
- Post the request for action at your sponsoring agency and ask your co-workers make phone calls.
- Put fliers with the phone numbers and messages in the mail boxes of all school staff or leave a stack at the front desk of the school, in the teacher/staff lounge or in the library.



Tracking Your Efforts

- Ask callers to track their efforts so you know how many calls have been made.
- Once you have tallied the information, please send an email to action@nasbhc.org.

Other Helpful Tips

- Use and adapt the poster provided in the action kit to best reflect the cultures, languages and demographics of your community and SBHC.
- Set a goal for the number of calls and create a thermometer or goal chart for meeting goals (a sample thermometer can be downloaded at www.nasbhc.org).
- Engage students in setting goals, creating the thermometers and conducting outreach.

HAVE FUN AND GOOD LUCK!!



General Information for Calling Congressional Offices

When it is time for action, NASBHC will provide a sample script with specific language for calling your member of Congress. In the meantime, here are some resources to help you prepare. Sometimes it is most comfortable for you and others in your community to use your own words when advocating. Below is a general outline and talking points to guide your phone calls to members of Congress.

General format for a call

- Ask to speak with the health legislative assistant (LA). If the health LA is unavailable or doesn't respond, ask for the legislative director.
- Introduce yourself and your affiliation with school-based health centers.
- Tell them why you are calling: briefly explain the bill and ask them to support the SBHC Act.
- Share a story or a statistic about a local school-based health center and why it is important to you and your community.
- Confirm their support again if there is not a clear answer.
- Get a commitment for follow up action: either when they will make a decision or when you can call back to find out.
- Be sure to get the name of the person with whom you talked.



General talking points

- School-based health centers – which are like having doctors' offices in schools – provide comprehensive and accessible primary health care services to medically underserved children, youth and families.
- There are approximately 1,700 school-based health centers in 44 states available to serve nearly 2 million children and yet many of these centers receive no federal support.
- A recent national survey* shows that two-thirds of voters approve of school-based health centers and believe that steady funding is vital.
- The School-Based Health Clinic Establishment Act would:
 - o Authorize the first-ever federal program for school-based health centers
 - o Authorize \$50 million for FY2008
- Please support the continuation and/or growth of school-based health centers here in *this district/state* by co-sponsoring/voting for the 2007 School-Based Health Clinic Establishment Act (S.600).