

November 14, 2007

Support School-Based Health Centers
Become an Original Cosponsor of the School-Based Health Clinic Act of 2007 Deadline
for Original Cosponsors: Thursday 6:00 PM

Dear Colleague,

Nearly 8.7 million children are uninsured in the United States according to recently released data from the Census Bureau. Over 600,000 more children became uninsured in the past year alone. The more than 1,700 school-based health centers across the United States already play a valuable role in helping ensure access to health care for uninsured children by providing care regardless of a child's ability to pay. The School-Based Health Clinic Act will help increase the number of clinics and expand their ability to reach even more children by providing much needed federal funding.

Because school-based health centers provide care on-site at schools, children have ready access to primary, preventative, and mental health services. Forty-five percent of children treated at school-based health centers have no insurance and 44 percent are enrolled in Medicaid, SCHIP, or other public coverage. The approximately two-million children that currently attend a school with a health center therefore are able to receive health services or access to providers that may otherwise be unavailable to them. The School-Based Health Clinic Act effectively focuses federal resources by prioritizing requests from clinics in communities that have high rates of uninsurance or evidence barriers to accessing care. School-based health centers thus can and do act as important sources of care in both urban and rural communities.

School-based health centers have been shown to reduce student absences and identify students at risk for health and behavioral problems, thus reducing obstacles to the learning process. More than 70 percent of children who need psychiatric treatment do not receive services and the American Medical Association rates adolescents aged 13 to 18 as the group of Americans with the poorest health indicators. Comprehensive primary and preventative care as well as mental health services provided by school-based health centers can help improve those discouraging findings.

To learn more about the School-Based Health Clinic Act of 2007 or to cosponsor, please contact Travis Robey with Congresswoman Hooley (5-5711 or travis.robey@mail.house.gov <<mailto:travis.robey@mail.house.gov>>) or Aaron Sporck with Congresswoman Capito (5-2711 or aaron.sporck@mail.house.gov <<mailto:aaron.sporck@mail.house.gov>>).

Sincerely,

Rep. Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

Rep. Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress