

May 5, 2011

Member
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: H.R. 1214, to repeal mandatory funding for school-based health center construction

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the 95,000 school board members who represent our nation's 50 million public schoolchildren, the National School Boards Association urges you to vote no on H.R. 1214, which would repeal funding for the construction of school-based health centers. On May 4, the House of Representatives passed the bill. However, NSBA urges your opposition to the measure.

School-based health centers are a vital asset to many of our school districts and communities, helping improve student achievement by providing centralized services for medical and dental care, as well as mental health. Without the services provided by school-based health centers, many of which are preventive services that help reduce costs including those for Medicaid expenditures, many of our students would not have adequate access to healthcare outside of their schools.

At a time when all levels of government are forced to reduce and even eliminate key services, mandatory funding for school-based health centers should not be considered among these budget cuts. The health and safety of our children should not be reduced to a line item rescission.

We urge your strong support to maintain funding for the construction of school-based health centers, which is an investment in the success of our schoolchildren. This funding will also help provide jobs in our communities to help reduce unemployment and improve the economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Resnick
Associate Executive Director

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*Working with and
Through our State
Associations, NSBA
Advocates for Equity
and Excellence in
Public Education
through School
Board Leadership*

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