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**CSHC ENewsletter**  
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**Policy Updates**  
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**SB 564: Bill Passes the Senate Health Committee**

On Wednesday, April 11th SB 564, The School Health Centers Expansion Act of 2007, passed the Senate Health Committee with a straight party line vote - Democrats in support and Republicans opposed. Testimony was provided by Kristin Curran, Deputy Director of CSHC, and Jane Garcia, CEO of La Clinica de la Raza, which runs five school health centers in Alameda County. Also present to show their support, were representatives from our co-sponsors - the California Primary Care Association and the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California - as well as the California Medical Association, the California Dental Association, and Kazue Shibata, CEO of Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Inc., who voiced her support on behalf of the 4700 students at John Marshall High School in Los Angeles. SB 564 will next be heard in the Senate Education Committee on April 25th, and we need your support! [Download](#) a sample support letter from our website and send it in today. To find out more about SB 564 and what you can do to help support the expansion effort, please [click here](#) , or contact Kristin Curran at [kcurran@schoolhealthcenters.org](mailto:kcurran@schoolhealthcenters.org).

**Mental Health Services Act: School Health Centers Advocate for Funding**

CSHC is continuing its work at the state level to advocate for MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) guidelines that will put school health centers in a good position to obtain funding in their counties. School health centers are urged to provide their input at two state-level stakeholder meetings (4/13 in Southern CA and 4/26 in Northern CA). Please [click here](#) for more information.

Help youth add their voice to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) planning process! The New America Media is hosting a conversation on April 26, 2007 in Los Angeles to gather youth input on potential Prevention & Early Intervention Strategies for the MHSA. Please [click here](#) for more information.

The PEI guidelines should be released to counties in August, and school health centers will have about three months to advocate at the county level for this funding.

For more information about MHSA or the stakeholder process, [click here](#), or contact [Michael Smith](#).

**AB 898: Bill to be heard in Assembly Health Committee**

AB 898 (Saldaña), the Promotores de Salud (Community Health Worker) School Health Center Nutrition Pilot Project, will be heard in the Assembly Health Committee on Tuesday, April 17th. This bill would establish a pilot grant program for school health centers to develop "Promotores de Salud" (Community Health Worker) programs to address obesity, nutrition, and physical activity in their schools and communities.

Testifying at the hearing on school health centers will be Katy Atkiss, Project Coordinator for the Youth N Fitness program at Manual Arts School Health Center in Los Angeles. To find out more about this bill and how you can help support it, [click here](#).

**Federal Bill: NASBHC Leads National Effort to Create School Health Center Grant Program**

NASBHC is organizing a postcard campaign and advocacy day to demonstrate national support for Senate Bill 600, the School-Based Health Clinic Establishment Act, which would authorize a grant funding program for school health centers. School health centers across the country are being asked to collect postcards which will be delivered to legislators following a rally on Capitol Hill to be held during NASBHC's annual convention, which will take place June 27-30th in Washington, DC. CSHC staff will bring these postcards, along with the signatures collected as part of the state signature gathering effort, to DC in June. Postcards should be sent to CSHC by June 15th. For more information about the bill and how you can help support national advocacy efforts, visit the [NASBHC website](#). Questions about the postcard campaign and state signature gathering? Contact Michael Smith at [msmith@schoolhealthcenters.org](mailto:msmith@schoolhealthcenters.org).

**News**

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**Signature Campaign: Youth Sign-On to Support School Health Center Expansion**

With strong support from the school health centers community, in only five weeks we were able to collect 8,100 youth signatures in support of school health centers! On April 3rd, a group of 30 youth delivered the signatures in backpacks to the Governor's Office, where they were received by senior health advisor, Richard Figueroa. The event made the Sacramento evening news! CSHC would like to thank all of the youth, adults and school health center supporters who made this campaign and event a success.

**Adolescent Health Advocacy Day: Youth Speak Out in Sacramento**

On April 3, 2007, youth from the Policy Leadership Program on School Health (PLP) and the Statewide Youth Board on Obesity Prevention gathered in Sacramento for their annual policy briefing. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kim Belshé, provided opening remarks for the event, and the youth delivered recommendations for improving nutrition and physical activity in schools, expanding school health centers, and increasing access to mental health services for teens. CSHC would like to thank Secretary Belshé, all of those in attendance, and most importantly the

youth for making this the most successful policy briefing to date! To view a video clip and photos from the event, please [click here](#).

**Alameda High School: Vote for Condom Availability**

The Alameda Family Services School-Based Health Centers' condom availability policy was unanimously approved by the Alameda Unified School Board on March 13, 2007. The victory came as a result of two years of youth-led advocacy and community engagement. "It's been a long wait for us," said Nzugu Kitenge, a junior at Alameda High School who was part of the student research and advocacy team, and "we're very satisfied." Participation from the PTA, local pediatricians, and clergy also played a key role in the policy's approval. CSHC extends its congratulations!

**National Essay Contest: Students Speak Out about Health Care**

Last fall, the Campaign for Children's Health Care sponsored a national essay contest to generate awareness among America's youth about the importance of providing health coverage to all young people. This contest gave voice to the insights of our youth and will help educate policy makers at both the state and national levels. To read the recently published essays of the winners from individual states, [click here](#)

**Announcements**

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**NASBHC Annual Conference: "Healthy Students, Healthy Nation"**

NASBHC will hold its annual conference in Washington, DC from June 27th to June 30th. Come join your school health center colleagues from around the country and meet with top health leaders, attend plenary sessions and diverse workshops, participate in a Capitol Hill rally, visit your Congressional members, and network with your peers. To find out more and register for the conference, visit the [NASBHC website](#).

Discount! NASBHC is offering a 10% discount on registration for groups of 10 or more. CSHC will be submitting a group registration. If you would like to be part of our group, your registration check will need to be made out the CSHC rather than NASHBC. Please contact [Cynthia Harding](#) by April 23rd for details.

**School Wellness Conference: Call for Presenters**

CSHC is a partner in the first-ever School Wellness Conference sponsored by the California School Boards Association (CSBA), the California Department of Education and the California Department of Health Services. The conference is at the Anaheim Marriott, Oct. 1-2, 2007. Proposals showcasing effective strategies and programs addressing student wellness issues are due April 20th. Please consider submitting so we can highlight the important work of school health centers! A submission form is posted online. [Click here](#) for more information.

**Diabetes Conference: Creating Positive Environments at Schools**

The Diabetic Youth Foundation will be holding a conference, "Building Diabetes Teams at School." This one-day conference will allow parents and school personnel to learn how to create a positive environment in schools for children with diabetes. The conference will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 9am-3pm in Walnut Creek, CA. [Click here](#) to view the flyer for this event.

**Seminar: Pediatric Diabetes and Obesity**

This one-day course on April 27, 2007 will take a practical approach to the

assessment and treatment of Type 1 and 2 Diabetes, childhood overweight and obesity. It is designed for nurses, dietitians, social workers, counselors, and other health care professionals, targeting those who work in the community. [Click here](#) to view the registration flyer.

## Tools & Resources

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### **Toolkit: Cervical Cancer and HPV**

In response to new developments in the prevention of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer, the Cervical Cancer/HPV Project is providing clinicians with resources to increase their clinical understanding of the link between cervical cancer and HPV; strengthen communication with patients; broaden understanding of health disparities and cultural differences associated with cervical cancer and HPV; and increase understanding of the HPV vaccine. To find out more and download the toolkit, please visit the [CMA Foundation website](#).

### **Website Launch: Reproductive Rights and Teens**

The National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) announces the launch of [www.TeenHealthRights.org](http://www.TeenHealthRights.org) as part of its Teen Health Rights Initiative. This new website is designed to help California adolescent health care providers understand the many laws that impact their work, with a focus on reproductive health. The site contains information produced by NCYL as well as other organizations specializing in adolescent health care.

### **Research Article: Linking School Health Centers to Community-Based Prevention Programs and Health Care Services**

A recent article in Health Affairs, entitled, "Health at School: A Hidden Health Care System Emerges From the Shadows" highlights the ability of school health programs to play a key role in obesity prevention and chronic disease management. The article states that increased interest in these areas "might end the isolation of school health programs and link them more effectively to community-based prevention programs and health care services." [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Issue Brief: Improving Environments for Children with Asthma**

This brief examines the environmental triggers of asthma and the disparities in the incidence of the disease. It also talks about the advocacy work conducted by local coalitions and the policy outcomes of their efforts. To read the brief, please [click here](#).

### **Issue Brief: The Food Landscape in California Cities and Counties**

The California Center for Public Health Advocacy (CCPHA) conducted a study that found increasing evidence that what we eat and the likelihood of being obese are influenced by the foods available in our neighborhoods. To read the policy brief, [click here](#).