



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2014

Contact: Marcel Reynolds at 510-268-1031 or  
mreynolds@schoolhealthcenters.org

### ***Rep. Lois Capps, Local Champions Honored for Changes to CA Children's Health***

(Oakland, CA) – Central Coast Congresswoman and longtime children's health advocate Lois Capps shared the stage with two fellow school health champions Friday during a statewide event to honor educators, health providers, and policymakers making a difference in California's schools.

Rep. Capps was honored for her leadership in seeking federal funding for school-based health centers, which provide health care to kids at school. She authored the bill to create a federal program to support operations at school-based health centers that was incorporated into the Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 but has yet to be funded. H.R. 2632 is her new bill now in Congress that would reauthorize this program after the original sunsets.

The ACA supported construction and expansion of 520 school-based health centers nationwide and brought California \$30 million to build more than 40 facilities. There are now 226 school-based health centers in California, with another 20 expected to open this year. California is one of only a handful of states with a significant number of school-based health centers that does not receive state funding to sustain operations at the facilities.

"These centers do more than just provide basic medical care. They often serve as hubs for innovative programming that help students not only succeed in school, but also teaches them skills that are needed long after graduation," Rep. Capps said in accepting the award via video.

Also honored was Kerman Unified School District Superintendent Robert Frausto and Jenn Rader, director of a school-based health center in the Bay Area's West Contra Costa County. Frausto was honored for his leadership in establishing a school-based health center for students in his rural Central Valley district as well as for his advocacy for school-based health care in neighboring school districts. Health needs – especially asthma-related – among school-age children are high in the Central Valley, where families must often travel vast distances to access health care.

Jenn Rader was recognized for establishing the James Morehouse Project – a school-based health center that supports students and families at El Cerrito High School, part of the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Her efforts have brought together children, families, teachers, and administrators to meet the needs of students impacted by trauma at school, at home, and in the community. Under her leadership, the James Morehouse Project has grown from being a student support center to offering preventative health care, behavioral health services, and youth development opportunities. She also fosters youth development by engaging kids in direct conversations with legislators and policymakers about health and community needs that impact kids and education.

"Kids' health is not just a family concern. These champions have made big impacts on kids' health, which in turn has improved their lives and their communities. Our state's leaders should look to these champions as examples of how to invest in kids' lives – and our future – by funding school-based health care programs in our state," said Serena Clayton, Executive Director of the California School-Based Health Alliance.

The California School-Based Health Alliance Board of Directors honored Rader, Frausto, and Rep. Capps during their statewide annual conference that brought together more than 500 school health care providers, educators, and children's health advocates in Oakland. Attendees learned about recent changes to school health services brought about by health care reform and how California's new education funding law will impact school health programs.

The California School-Based Health Alliance, formerly the California School Health Centers Association, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the health and academic success of children and youth by advocating for policies and funding to expand and improve school-based health care in California. Learn more at [www.schoolhealthcenters.org](http://www.schoolhealthcenters.org).

###