*Please put on your letterhead.*

*Feel free incorporate information about your organization and your reasons for supporting.*

*Email to the following staff:* *Katie.Hardeman@asm.ca.gov**,* *Elisa.Wynne@sen.ca.gov**,* *Hans.Hemann@asm.ca.gov**,* *Guy.Strahl@asm.ca.gov**,* *Veronica.Badillo@asm.ca.gov**,* *Kelly.Ash@asm.ca.gov**,* *Teresa.Trujillo@asm.ca.gov**,* *Spencer.Street@sen.ca.gov**,* *Colin.Sueyres@sen.ca.gov**,* *Matthew.Montgomery@sen.ca.gov**,* *Marvin.Deon@sen.ca.gov*

*Cc:* *leisenberg@schoolhealthcenters.org*

Today’s date

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Budget Conference Committee | The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Vice Chair |
| The Honorable Joaquin Arambula | The Honorable Nancy Skinner |
| The Honorable Richard Bloom | The Honorable Richard Roth |
| The Honorable Rocky Chavez | The Honorable John Moorlach |
| The Honorable Jay Obernolte | The Honorable Jim Nielsen |

**RE: Department of Education: One-time Funding for School-Based Health Centers – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymembers and Senators of the Budget Conference Committee:

[Organization] respectfully requests the Budget Conference Committee’s adoption of the Assembly’s proposal to create a one-time grant program for school-based health centers (SBHCs) in the Department of Education. SBHCs are an innovative way to make sure students are safe and healthy in school. They are located on or near school campuses and offer services in a place that is familiar, trusted, age-appropriate, culturally and linguistically appropriate, and convenient for all students and families. Children served by SBHCs are primarily youth of color, live in many of the state’s most distressed neighborhoods where children and families are uninsured, experience barriers to accessing preventive health care, have high rates of emergency room visits, obesity, asthma, and exposure to violence and trauma.

The one-time investment of $35 million into SBHCs in the Assembly’s proposed budget would significantly grow the SBHC movement in California. Communities throughout the state want to bring SBHCs to their schools and these planning and expansion grants would help meet this demand. At this funding level, the investment could support the following:

* + 70 grants to construct new SBHCs or purchase mobile health vans.
	+ 50 planning grants to schools and communities to develop new partnerships and lay the groundwork for future SBHC growth.
	+ 75 expansion grants for existing SBHCs to purchase new equipment such as dental equipment.

[Include information about your organization here. Are you a school or school-based health partner? What are the funding needs you see in your community or school? How would you use this funding?]

SBHCs are true partners with the school by removing health barriers that prevent students from succeeding and creating a positive learning environment. SBHCs improve attendance and school climate, reduce dropouts, and support academic achievement.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and we respectfully urge your support for the Assembly’s proposal for $35 million in SBHC planning and expansion grants.

Sincerely,
[Signature, Title of Individual Authorized to Represent Organization]