*Please put on your letterhead.* ***Submit letters by Tuesday, May 28 at 5:00 pm****.*

*Submit letters online at* [*https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/*](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)*.*

*<Today's Date>*

The Honorable Connie M. Leyva

Senate Education Committee

State Capitol, Room 2083

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1322 (Berman) Office of School-Based Health Programs – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Leyva,

On behalf of [your organization’s name], I am writing in support of *Assembly Bill 1322 (Berman): Office of School-Based Health Programs*. AB 1322 would establish an Office of School-Based Health programs within the California Department of Education (CDE), to provide leadership and assistance to school districts offering health programs through the public schools.

Children come to school every day suffering from mental health issues, poor nutrition, asthma, diabetes, and other conditions that seriously impact their ability to succeed. Schools are a critical partner in providing health services to students. Still, nearly 20% of public school staff report that their school does not provide adequate health services to students[[1]](#endnote-1). [For LEAs: include information about or an example of the health services provided in your schools and/or the need for more services. For others: add a sentence or two about your organization and why you support school health services.]

Since the early 1990s, schools have been eligible to receive reimbursement from the federal government for direct health services provided at school sites through a program called Medi-Cal LEA Billing. School districts also participate in the Medicaid Administrative Activities program, which covers administrative costs for activities such as helping families enroll and access services for their students through Medi-Cal. To run smoothly and maximize funding eligibility, school districts require support from state agencies responsible for both health and education. AB 1322 would strengthen the institutional partnership between the Department of Health Care Services and CDE by creating an office within CDE to coordinate various health programs and services delivered through the schools.

Other states have successfully drawn down federal funds to support the administrative costs of assistance to school districts participating in these reimbursement programs and California could do the same to support an Office of School-Based Health Programs. With the expanding ability to receive federal funds for school-based health services, there is an opportunity for the CDE to play a vital role with assisting districts that wish to participate and draw down federal funds.

AB 1322 is an important step to improve access to health services through schools and [your organization’s name] is pleased to support AB 1322.

Sincerely,

[Signature, Title of Individual Authorized to Represent Organization]

1. [As cited on kidsdata.org](http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/1803/school-health-services/table#fmt=2265&loc=2,127,347,331,348,336,171,321,345,357,332,324,362,337,327,364,356,217,353,328,354,323,352,320,339,334,365,343,367,344,355,366,368,265,349,361,4,273,59,370,326,341,338,350,342,329,325,359,363,340,335&tf=81&ch=1143,1144,1145,1146,1147,1148,1149), California Department of Education, California School Climate Survey (WestEd). [↑](#endnote-ref-1)