November 9, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

U.S. House Speaker

United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Palone Jr.

Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce

United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell

Republican Leader

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander

Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Chairman Pallone, and Chairman Alexander,

We, the undersigned, write to you urging your continued support for school-based health centers (SBHCs) by passing legislation reauthorizing the SBHC program before the end of the year. The health services that SBHCs provide are vital to the safety of young Americans and their communities, especially as a first line response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SBHC’s are our Nation’s only health care safety-net serving primarily low-income and medically unserved populations of children and youth. The SBHC’s currently serve over 6.3 million students attending 10,629 schools. Nearly two-thirds of SBHCs nationwide provide services to populations other than students in their schools, including: students from other schools, faculty and school personnel, family members of students, out of school youth, and others in the community.

SBHCs provide a holistic approach to health care through partnerships with community health providers such as Federally Qualified Health Centers, hospitals, and other community institutions. Telehealth options are even available for youth who may be unable to seek in-person treatment. SBHCs provide many services including immunizations, mental health services, COVID-19 testing and treatment, and primary care. SBHCs have demonstrated their ability to keep children healthy and address emergent needs, while providing cost savings for their communities.

We commend Congress for offering their support to Americans during this difficult time and we now request that Congress address the unique needs of America’s children and youth. We hope you share our vision for the future of school-based health centers and respectfully ask that Congress pass legislation reauthorizing the SBHC program before the end of this year.

Thank you for your consideration,

SIGNATURE