**Sample Support Letter – AB 1940 (Salas)**

***Submit to Senate Education Committee by June 10 at noon via the online advocates portal:*** [***https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/***](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)

***Step-by-step directions for submitting letters using the online portal are available here:*** [***https://www.senate.ca.gov/sites/senate.ca.gov/files/2019\_quick\_ref\_guide\_advocacy.pdf***](https://www.senate.ca.gov/sites/senate.ca.gov/files/2019_quick_ref_guide_advocacy.pdf)

**Please send a copy to: Michael Dyar (****Michael.Dyar@asm.ca.gov****) and Lisa Eisenberg (****leisenberg@schoolhealthcenters.org****)**

INSERT YOUR ORGANIZATION’S LETTERHEAD

[Today’s Date]

The Honorable Connie Leyva

Chair, Senate Education Committee

O Street, Room 6740

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SUPPORT - AB 1940 (Salas): School-Based Health Center Support Program**

Dear Senator Leyva,

[INSERT ORGANIZATION’S NAME] is writing to express our support for AB 1940 (Salas), which updates and modernizes the existing school-based health center (SBHC) grant program to meet the current needs of SBHCs in the state, clarifies the definition of “school-based health center” in statute, increases the grant amounts for facilities & start-up grants, and adds a new expansion grant category for existing SBHCs. [ADD SENTENCE DESCRIBING YOUR ORG’S MISSION AND CONNECTION TO THIS ISSUE.]

School-based health centers provide quality, age and developmentally appropriate comprehensive health care and other support services on or near a public school campus. SBHCs are primarily located in areas where children are underserved, experience health and education disparities, and face significant barriers to care. Including a SBHC on or near a school campus increases a student’s access to care, reduces health disparities, and provides potential savings through better preventative care and reduces emergency department utilization, drug utilization, and inpatient treatment services. Children do better in school if they are healthy and have received all of their immunizations and preventive annual exams. SBHCs support educational achievement, help increase attendance rates, and address the whole-child needs of students.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to massive social and economic disruptions around the world, and it has particularly exacerbated mental health issues among school age youth. Social isolation, feelings of loneliness, and a lack of access to health care providers and support services exacerbated already inequitable health and well-being outcomes for students. School-based health centers adapted without state support to provide much-needed telehealth services amid the COVID-19 pandemic and distance learning. SBHCs are a valuable asset in providing comprehensive health care services to students, families, and communities as they recover from the pandemic.

Despite the effectiveness of school-based health centers and the awareness that students are best supported with access to health care and supportive services in schools, California has never provided state funding for SBHCs. [ADD SPECIFIC REASONS FOR YOUR ORG SUPPORTING AB 1940.]

For these reasons, we support AB 1940 (Salas) and respectfully request your “aye” vote. Thank you for demonstrating your commitment to student physical, mental, and behavioral health while increasing access to services to improve student overall health and academic outcomes.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[ORGANIZATION]