[Date]

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the organizations listed below, we respectfully request you sign *AB 1940 (Salas): School-Based Health Center Support Program* into law when it reaches your desk.

AB 1940 updates and modernizes the existing school-based health center (SBHC) grant program to meet the current needs of SBHCs in the state. Specifically, the bill:

1. clarifies the definition of “school-based health center” in statute,
2. increases the grant amounts for facilities & start-up grants, and
3. adds a new expansion grant category for existing SBHCs.

The SBHC Program has existed in statute since 2007 yet has never been implemented due to a lack of funding. While we continue to work with your administration and legislators to allocate funding for this program, AB 1940 makes critical changes to existing law regarding SBHCs. In particular, the bill improves the definition of SBHCs to better align with and identify these clinics on or near school sites.

SBHCs provide quality, age and developmentally appropriate comprehensive health care and other support services on or near a K-12 school campus. SBHCs are primarily located in areas where children are underserved, experience health and education disparities, and face significant barriers to care. SBHCs are shown to improve attendance rates, address the whole-child needs of students, increase access to care, and reduce higher cost health care utilization like emergency department visits. SBHCs are also aligned with many initiatives advanced by you and your administration including Community Schools and the Child and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative.

For these reasons, we are proud to support AB 1940 (Salas) and request your signature when it reaches your desk. We appreciate your investment in and support of California’s students. Please contact Lisa Eisenberg at leisenberg@schoolhealthcenters.org for more information or to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,
<List of organizations>