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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE

CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTION

EDUCATION

FINANCE

HEALTH

JUDICIARY

RULES

March 5, 2018

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senate Democratic Conference Leader
907 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Honorable John J. Flanagan
Senate Majority Leader
909 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Assembly Speaker
932 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Honorable Jeffrey D. Klein
Independent Democratic Conference Leader
913 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Legislative Leaders,

We the undersigned legislators are writing to you on behalf of School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) and the children they serve across the State to respectfully request that you include an **additional \$4,018,874 in funds for SBHCs in the 2018-19 Budget.** This amount would restore revenue to 16 SBHC sponsors whose non-Medicaid grant funds were severely reduced last year by a combination of a 20% State Budget cut and an administrative action taken by the State Department of Health (DOH) to change the methodology for the distribution of these funds.

We are happy to see that cuts to SBHCs were not in the proposed executive budget for the 2018-2019 State Fiscal Year. However, School-Based Health Centers are in financial crisis. On July 1, 2017 the DOH announced a new redistribution of non-Medicaid funding which resulted in extraordinary and unsustainable cuts to SBHCs in some of the most medically underserved and low-income areas of the State such as Buffalo, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and other high-need neighborhoods. The new allocation methodology resulted in cuts ranging from 26% to 70%, with many in the 45% to 66% range. It severely negatively impacted 13 New York City SBHCs with total reductions of \$3,603,030, and three Upstate providers with a total loss of \$415,844.

These administrative cuts come on the heels of the largest State Budget reductions in the 39-year history of the SBHC program- a 25% reduction in funds for direct health, mental health and preventive care, and reproductive health services to children and adolescents. The 2017-18 State Budget resulted in a 20% cut for SBHCs. In the 2013-14 State Budget,

SBHCs were cut by 5%. In both cases, the proposal to include SBHCs in a public health consolidation and reduction plan originated in the proposed Executive Budget.

There are School Based Health Centers serving children in 46 Senate Districts and 78 Assembly Districts. The State's 255 SBHCs provide services to over 200,000 children including primary, dental, mental, and reproductive health care services, as well as preventive, chronic and other types of care to underserved populations on-site in schools.

SBHCs are safety-net providers for children who are undocumented and/or uninsured. They are a critical point of care for immigrant children. Currently 12% of those served are uninsured- a number that could increase if federal proposals are enacted to cut and cap Medicaid funds and to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

SBHCs also reduce racial and ethnic disparities. According to the State Department of Health, 44% served are Hispanic or Latino and 31% are Black or African American.

SBHCs save the State money and keep kids in school. Research shows that SBHCs improve academic performance, graduation rates, and health outcomes like higher vaccination rates and reduced complications for chronic illnesses like asthma and diabetes.

SBHCs save taxpayers money by reducing emergency room visits and hospitalizations. According to a 2016 analysis of multiple cost benefit studies ¹ **“The economic benefit of SBHCs exceeds the intervention cost. Further, SBHCs result in net savings to Medicaid. Total annual savings to the Medicaid program for SBHCs ranged from \$30 dollars per visit to \$969 per visit.”**

We have seen the positive impact these School-Based Health Centers have on children and families throughout the State. New York has always been a champion for children's health and leads the nation as the largest provider of School Based Health. We must continue our support and preserve access to vital primary and mental health services for children and adolescents across the state.

We strongly urge you to provide \$4,018,874 in additional funds for School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs). Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,

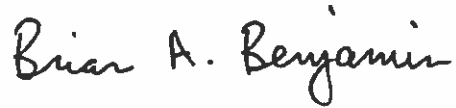


State Senator Velmanette Montgomery
Ranking Member, Children and Families Committee

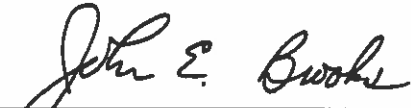
¹ *Economic Evaluation of School-Based Health Centers. A Community Guide Systematic Review. Ran, et al. American Journal of Preventive Medicine 2016; 51 (1):129-138)*



Senator Jamaal Bailey
36th Senate District



Senator Brian A. Benjamin
14th Senate District



Senator John Brooks
8th Senate District



Senator Leroy Comrie
14th Senate District



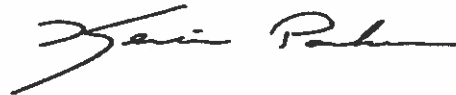
Senator Martin M. Dilan
18th Senate District



Senator Brad Hoylman
27th Senate District



Senator Brian P. Kavanaugh
26th Senate District



Senator Kevin Parker
21st Senate District



Senator Roxanne Persaud
19th Senate District



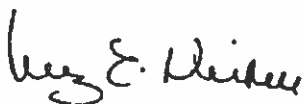
Senator Gustavo Rivera
33rd Senate District



Senator James Sanders Jr.
10th Senate District



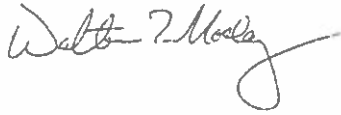
Assemblymember Charles Barron
60th Assembly District



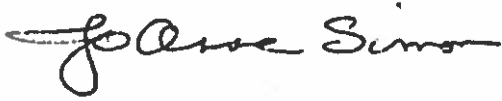
Assemblymember Inez Dickens
70th Assembly District




Assemblymember Kimberly Jean-Pierre
11th Assembly District



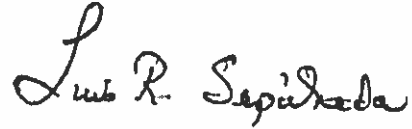
Assemblymember Walter Mosley
57th Assembly District



Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon
52nd Assembly District



Assemblymember Tremaine S. Wright
56th Assembly District



Assemblymember Luis Sepulveda
87th Assembly District



Assemblymember Al Taylor
71st Assembly District