



Sample Script for Talking to Your Legislator About School-Based Health Centers

Background:

February is National School-Based Health Care Awareness Month.

California has over 200 school-based health centers (SBHCs) providing access to high quality, comprehensive medical care, mental health services, preventive care, social services, and youth development. These services are provided without concern for students' ability to pay in a location that meets children and adolescents where they are: at school.

Many SBHCs opened or expanded thanks to funding made available through the Affordable Care Act's SBHC construction and equipment grants. The Affordable Care Act also authorized a grant program for SBHC operations, *but this has not yet been funded.*

The California School Health Centers Association (CSHC) is encouraging everyone to contact their members of Congress in February to remind them that school-based health centers keep students healthy and learning and to ask them to prioritize operational funds for SBHCs in the Congressional FY 2014 budget.

Sample Script to Call Your Legislator:

When you call your legislator, ask for the Education or Health Legislative Assistant. You may be put through to that person, or you may get their voicemail, or just talk to the receptionist.

Hi, my name is _____ and I'm a constituent of [Your Congressperson]. I'm calling because February is national School-Based Health Care Awareness Month.

I'm a _____ [nurse, student, parent, concerned citizen] and I want to share my support for school-based health centers and encourage [Your Congressperson] to prioritize operational funds for school-based health centers in the Congressional 2014 budget.

We have 200 school-based health centers here in California. I want to make sure you know that without these health centers many kids would not get health care and would be dealing with serious health and mental health issues that would impact their learning.

The Affordable Care Act authorized a grant program for school-based health center operations but it hasn't been funded. So this is why we are asking [Your Congressperson] to prioritize funding for school-based health centers in the Congressional 2014 budget.

Thanks for your time.