



Testimony of Jill Holmes Brown  
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Board Member CASBHC (Connecticut Association of School Based Health Center)  
H.B. No. 6439 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE  
BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS Re:  
School Based Health Clinics- Department of Public Health Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Health, March 2, 2021

Dear Senator Abrams, Rep Dillion, Senator Somers and members of the Health Sub-Committee thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony regarding HB 6439- An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023.

I would like to thank you and the Governor for the recognition of School Based Health Centers and would urge you to support increased funding for the School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in Connecticut.

School-Based Health Centers provide integrated, medical, dental and mental health care.

Removing the barriers to access care on site in the school allows for easier follow-ups and for a trusted relationship between students and teachers and families.

SBHC's allow students to stay in school and not miss any seat time, while their parents can remain at work, and their teachers can focus on their students' classroom and educational needs.

During COVID we were able to very quickly implement telehealth as a platform to provide services and continue to offer much needed physical exams, immunizations and mental health services. The pandemic made it clear how imperative SBHC' are to our students.

It is especially important to note that these centers provide barrier-free access to care for children and eliminate challenges presented by transportation, and parents schedules.

The cost is one of incredible importance as SBHC's can treat conditions such as asthma at a fraction of the cost of what an emergency room visit would be. SBHC's are at the forefront of preventative care for mental health as well. Early identification, support and treatment can often influence the trajectory of student's mental health and help erase the stigma of mental health.

SBHC's mental health clinicians are well versed in Trauma based approaches, which is critical component after what our children have experienced in the last year.

SBHC's data continually shows how there presence contributes to decreased school absenteeism by providing these essential services.

I implore you to consider increasing funding for the expansion of SBHC's.

**Healthy kids make Better Learners!**

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Thank you for your consideration. Jill Holmes Brown LCSW Chief Operating Officer  
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