

NASBHC

National
Assembly on
School-Based
Health Care

Bringing Health Care To Schools For Student Success

Executive Director

Linda Juszczak

October 13, 2009

Board of Directors

President
Paul Melinkovich
Denver, CO

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

President-Elect
Tamara Copeland
Washington, DC

Dear President Obama,

Secretary
TJ Cosgrove
Seattle, WA

As health reform legislation moves forward, The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care, the national voice for school-based health centers, urges you to ensure that strong provisions for community prevention are included in the legislation.

Treasurer
G. Van De Velde
St. Leonard, MD

Community prevention enables the health care system to run more effectively by reducing the burden on emergency departments, clinical and in-patient care. School-based health centers (SBHCs) play an important role in a community's efforts to keep its children healthy.

Allan Alson
Evanston, IL

Preventive care, such as immunizations and well-child checks, help students avoid health-related absences and get support to succeed in the classroom. SBHCs and other community prevention programs are especially important for children who are the most vulnerable and least likely to obtain care through a traditional health care delivery system.

Cynthia Barnes-Boyd
Chicago, IL

Terri Barton
Arlington, TX

Both the Senate HELP Committee's *Affordable Health Choices Act* and the House Tri-Committee's *America's Affordable Health Choices Act* would establish Community Transformation Grants to address the community level factors that support health and equity. This program should be maintained in the bill in order to support community efforts to engage in quality prevention. The bills establish a Prevention and Public Health Fund to make sure that health reform not only improves health care access and quality but also invests in improving America's health. These bills also include the establishment of a National Prevention and Wellness Strategy, which signals high level inter-agency commitment to supporting communities that foster health and equity.

Kelly Dunkin
Denver, CO

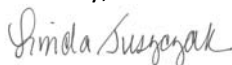
Maureen Hanrahan
Denver, CO

David Strong
Raleigh, NC

Peter Wallace
Iowa City, IA

It is well-accepted that healthier children make better students. School-based health centers, and other community prevention initiatives, play an important role in ensuring that all children, regardless of circumstance, are able to reach their fullest potential. We urge you to communicate your support for meaningful prevention provisions, including Community Transformation Grants, a National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy, and a Prevention and Public Health Fund, with Congressional leadership.

Sincerely,



Linda Juszczak, DNSc, MPH, CPNP
Executive Director