



**Lansing, Michigan - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Debbie Brinson, Executive Director  
School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan  
2525 Jolly Road, Suite 260, Okemos, Michigan 48864  
Phone: 517/908-0847, ext. 229  
Fax: 517/381-8011  
[dbrinson@scha-mi.org](mailto:dbrinson@scha-mi.org)

**Stabenow Introduces Legislation to Help Provide Essential Health Services for Children across the Country**

*Introduces bill to supplement care for uninsured and underinsured students*

WASHINGTON – The School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan is pleased to announce the introduction of the bipartisan “Healthy Schools Act” (S.1034). This legislation mandates Medicaid payment for reimbursable services delivered through school-based health centers (SBHCs). There are 94 SBHCs in Michigan located in and near schools across the state. This legislation was introduced by U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) yesterday joined with Senators Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Michael Bennet (D-CO), John Kerry (D-MA), Carl Levin (D-MI), Richard Durbin (D-IL), and Ron Wyden (D-OR).

“Every child in America deserves access to quality, affordable healthcare,” said Stabenow. “School Based Health Centers across this country are already doing excellent work keeping our children healthy and making sure they are prepared to learn. Our bill makes sure these centers receive the funding they need.”

Under this year’s reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program, SBHCs are eligible to receive reimbursement for services such as sick visits, immunizations, mental-health services, and well-child exams. The “Healthy Schools Act” mandates that all state Medicaid programs reimburse SBHCs for the same health services that would have been reimbursable in an outpatient clinic.

“School-based health centers play an important role in providing quality, accessible, and appropriate healthcare for school-aged youth.” said Debbie Brinson, Executive Director of the School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan. “Recognizing these centers as primary care delivery sites and ensuring Medicaid reimbursement for services is a critical source of revenue and a key component toward their long-term sustainability and ensuring ongoing access to healthcare for medically underserved youth.”

For more information on school-based health centers in Michigan and the work they do to support children and adolescents in achieving educational success please visit [www.scha-mi.org](http://www.scha-mi.org). Also, for the locations of school-based health centers in Michigan and across the country, please visit: [http://ww2.nasbhc.org/census/census\\_sbhcstats.asp](http://ww2.nasbhc.org/census/census_sbhcstats.asp).

The School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan is a collaboration of individuals and organizations that represent school-based and school-linked health centers and programs throughout the state of Michigan. SCHA-MI believes that all Michigan children and youth have the basic fundamental right to access and receive comprehensive primary health care and prevention services.

**- END -**