

BONNIE CULLISON  
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Health and Government  
Operations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

September 13, 2018

William E. Kirwan, Chair  
Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education  
Maryland Department of Legislative Services  
90 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Kirwan:

I am writing today to provide information and feedback on a recommendation of Workgroup 4 as it relates to future funding for school-based health centers (SBHC). Element Detail 4a of the report of this workgroup seems to say that the public funding to increase the numbers of SBHCs be limited to schools that have been certified as community schools. **I respectfully request that this recommendation be broadened so that this funding is available for schools which meet specific criteria regarding the concentration of poverty. This umbrella recommendation would most certainly include community based schools, but would not be limited to them.**

Over the last three years the Council for the Advancement of School-Based Health Centers has been working toward increasing access to health care for students and their families who are most affected by poverty. The Council is now in the process of identifying the elements of need and of successful programming, which will help inform the placement of these centers where they are needed most. This information will be available to MSDE and MDH in its decision-making going forward. I am concerned that limiting the funding to community-based schools will deny other equally affected schools access to this critical resource for our students.

Thank you very much for your leadership on the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. The work of this Commission is essential to modernizing our public policy to assure that our schools work for all students.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bonnie Cullison".

Delegate Bonnie Cullison