



August 21, 2018

The Honorable John Sarbanes
2444 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sarbanes:

On behalf of First Focus, a national bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families a priority in federal budget and policy decisions, we applaud and support your effort in introducing the Hallways to Health Act, a reauthorization of the School-Based Health Center Program.

These centers are a vital source of medical, behavioral, and oral health care services for children with limited access to care. According to the School-Based Health Alliance, there are over 2,300 "school-based clinics that serve students and communities in 49 of 50 states and the District of Columbia."

First Focus has long supported strengthening our nation's most vulnerable children's access to health care, which is why we applaud your effort to reauthorize and expand the School-Based Health Center Program. The expanded program would encourage children to adopt healthy behaviors and would give schools the ability to incorporate tele-medicine.

Thank you for your advocacy for children, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Lesley".

Bruce Lesley
President