



April 15, 2026

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives

Chairman Brett Guthrie
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Troy Balderson
U.S. House of Representatives

Ranking Member Frank Pallone
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Tonko, Congressman Balderson, Chairman Guthrie, and Ranking Member Pallone:

I am writing on behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families a priority in federal budget and policy decisions, to express our support for H.R. 8209, School-Based Health Centers Reauthorization Act of 2026.

By providing care in and near schools, school-based health centers make it easy for children to obtain care where they spend most of their time. These centers provide convenient, affordable health care, offering a range of services, such as flu shots, mental health care, dental and eye exams, checkups, and referrals to specialists, based on local needs. Giving children and teens better access to health care makes them healthier and puts them in a better position to learn—helping them do better in school, increasing graduation rates, and decreasing school discipline cases.

Your bipartisan bill would reauthorize necessary federal funds for school-based health centers. School-based health centers play a vital role for students, with over 2,000 school-based health clinics that operate in nearly all states and serve more than 2 million students in preschool through 12th grade. We are pleased to support this legislation and thank you for your dedication to improving the health and education of children and youth.

Sincerely



Bruce Lesley
President