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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

**A9288 (Gottfried)**

**On Assembly Health Committee Agenda, March 1, 2022, Noon**

**AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to coverage for services provided by school-based health centers for medical assistance recipients; and to amend part JJ of chapter 57 of the laws of 2021 amending the social services law relating to managed care programs, in relation to the effectiveness thereof**

**The New York School-Based Health Alliance strongly supports** **A9288 (Gottfried)** to permitSchool-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) to remain out of the Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) program.

The State’s 262 SBHCs provide comprehensive physical, chronic, mental and dental health services to underserved populations on-site in schools. They provide access to care to every child who enters their door regardless of insurance status.

SBHCs reduce racial and ethnic disparities. According to the State Department of Health, 43% served are Hispanic or Latino and 27% are Black or African American.

SBHCs are safety-net providers for children who are undocumented and/or uninsured. They are a critical point of care for immigrant children. Currently 13% of those served are uninsured.

School-Based Health Centers save the State money and keep kids in school. Research shows that SBHCs improve academic performance, graduation rates, and health outcomes like higher vaccination rates and reduced complications for chronic illnesses like asthma and diabetes. They save money by reducing emergency room visits and hospitalizations.

**Unlike other carve-ins implemented by NYS DOH, this one has no fiscal savings associated with it.** However, it will cost SBHCs and sponsors a significant amount of money.

Since 1985, SBHCs have been carved-out of the Medicaid Managed Care program, enabling them to receive reimbursement directly from the State for the Medicaid services that they provide to children. If carved-in, SBHCs will face costly and insurmountable administrative challenges involving credentialing, contracting, billing, and claims processing for centers. Both SBHCs and their sponsors will need to make significant investments in IT and other systems to process payments and meet State data reporting requirements- all for a relatively small portion of the Medicaid population.

SBHCs have lost nearly 30% in funding since 2008, while the population that they serve has grown. This bill makes the Medicaid Managed Care Carve-Out permanent and provides stability to this vital public health service.

School-Based-Health Centers are an unqualified success across the State and they need support now more than ever to remain in business.

**The New York School-Based Health Alliance strongly urges the members of the Assembly Health Committee to vote “Yes” on A9288 (Gottfried).**