



Ohio School-Based Health Alliance
House Finance Committee
House Bill 96 FY26-27 State Operating Budget
Interested Party Testimony
April 2, 2025

Good morning, Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and Members of the House Finance Committee — thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 96, the SFY 26-27 operating budget.

My name is Reem Aly and I serve as Executive Director of the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance (“Ohio Alliance”). As Ohio’s only nonprofit, independent organization solely dedicated to supporting school-based health care, the Ohio Alliance is uniquely positioned to strengthen the state’s school-based health center infrastructure through policy leadership, technical assistance, and data-driven solutions.

On behalf of our partners statewide, we extend our deepest appreciation for your ongoing commitment to Ohio’s children and steadfast investment in Ohio’s school-based health centers. Maintaining the **appropriation of \$20 million over the biennium for school-based health centers in the SFY 2026-2027 budget is critical to ensuring Ohio’s children are connected to needed health care services.** Far too many communities remain without access to care — underscoring the urgent need for sustained and expanded investment in school-based health care to keep students in the classroom, healthy, and ready to learn.

Thanks to your leadership, school-based health centers are transforming student health and academic outcomes across Ohio. However, the lack of timely, comprehensive, and reliable data on school-based health centers leaves these partnerships vulnerable to operational and sustainability challenges. To close this gap, **we respectfully request an additional \$1M for the Ohio Alliance to establish a statewide data hub for reporting, tracking, and evaluation of school-based health centers.** A data hub will safeguard Ohio’s investment in school-based health centers and maximize impact by putting in place the data infrastructure to support school-based health center expansion, long-term sustainability, and continuous quality improvement.

The Ohio Alliance stands ready to advance this work and is open to an allocation of funding within existing funding streams, if necessary. We thank you again and express utmost gratitude for your dedication to improving children’s access to care through school-based health centers. We are eager to continue this critical work with you to build a healthier, stronger future for Ohio’s students, families, and communities.

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