



**Ohio School-Based Health Alliance**  
**Senate Health Committee**  
House Bill 96 FY26-27 State Operating Budget  
Interested Party Testimony  
May 13, 2025

Good morning Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Sub House Bill 96, the proposed SFY26-27 operating budget.

My name is Reem Aly, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance—the only statewide, independent, and nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving access to comprehensive, sustainable health services through school-based health care.

We are grateful for the strong support of the General Assembly for school-based health centers. The proposed \$20 million in funding over the biennium demonstrates a clear and ongoing commitment to improving student health and academic success across Ohio. We now urge the Senate to build on this momentum by maintaining the funding and advancing the policies and infrastructure needed to support and strengthen school-based health centers across the state.

These centers remain one of the most practical and effective strategies for connecting children to the care they need. SBHCs remove barriers by bringing healthcare directly into the school setting—ensuring students can access care without missing valuable classroom time, parents can stay at work, and communities benefit from cost savings through improved care coordination and reduced emergency visits.

To fully realize the potential of this investment, **we respectfully request a \$1 million appropriation over the biennium to create a statewide SBHC Data Hub, and designate the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance to lead its development and management.**

Currently, Ohio lacks a centralized system to measure the reach, effectiveness, and impact of school-based health centers. This leaves a major gap in understanding where students and families are accessing care, where unmet needs remain, and how these centers are improving health and education outcomes. Without this infrastructure, it's difficult to track progress, identify service gaps, or ensure resources are directed where they're needed most.

A statewide SBHC Data Hub would address these challenges and support better care, smarter investments, and stronger outcomes. Specifically, it would:



- **Improve care delivery** by enabling better coordination between schools and healthcare providers
- **Guide effective use of state resources** by identifying service gaps and targeting future investments
- **Reduce administrative burden** by streamlining data collection and reporting for providers
- **Demonstrate the value of SBHCs** by measuring outcomes and potential long-term cost savings through early intervention and reduced emergency care

The Ohio Alliance is well-positioned to lead this effort by leveraging our deep expertise, operational knowledge, and strong statewide partnerships to guide development of the data hub and ensure its success.

In addition to SBHC and Data Hub funding, the Ohio Alliance supports policies and investments that align with our mission to ensure children are healthy, ready to learn, and supported by strong healthcare and education systems:

- **Maintain funding for the OhioSEE Program and the Children’s Dental Services Program** to help students access critical vision and dental care that directly impacts learning.
- **Protect access to Medicaid**, which helps families stay healthy and working. When families have access to care, kids thrive. Amending the “shall” language in HB 96 to “may” would give the state flexibility and avoid sudden disruptions in care for 770,000 Ohioans in the Medicaid expansion group if the federal match drops below 90%.
- **Ensure schools are fully funded**, so students are supported not only in health but in strong learning environments.

Thank you again for your leadership and the opportunity to testify. We appreciate your consideration of our priorities—particularly our request for the creation of a statewide SBHC Data Hub, which is critical to advancing and sustaining school-based health care in Ohio.

As the state’s only independent, nonpartisan organization solely focused on school-based health care, the Ohio Alliance stands ready to support both our school-based health care partners and Ohio legislators with the expertise needed to move this work forward. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Contact:** Reem Aly, JD, MHA  
Executive Director  
Ohio School-Based Health Alliance  
[reem@osbha.com](mailto:reem@osbha.com)