

March 31, 2023

Dear Chairs Wiklund and Mann and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask for your support for the Senate Health Finance & Policy budget omnibus bill and school-based health centers in Minnesota. This written testimony is for the Health Finance & Policy Committee hearing on Friday March 31, 2023 at 3:00 pm

I have worked as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in school- based health care for the past 15 years at Plymouth Youth Center, a contract alternative high school for students on the North Side of Minneapolis. Our clinic provides essential primary care needs including annual physical exams, sports physicals, immunizations, sexual health needs, acute minor illness evaluation/ treatment, and ongoing monitoring/treatment of chronic health issues. The PYC School Clinic has been able to fill a gap over this COVID time when health care access has so negatively impacted adolescents.

School based health care is needed in schools all over Minnesota. The time is now to expand and open this model to all children and teens across our state.

Thank you for your support,

Mary E. Jordan, APRN, CPNP

Coordinator, PYC/NTC Satellite Clinics

NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center