



School-Based Health Centers in Health Care Reform

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The U.S. House of Representatives passed the *Affordable Health Care for America Act*

The U.S. Senate is considering the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*

Both the House and the Senate bills include provisions supporting SBHCs (outlined below). The bill is now in conference, where any differences remaining after the Senate passes its bill will be reconciled during the conference process.

SUMMARY OF SBHC POLICY PRIORITIES IN HEALTH CARE REFORM BILLS

Authorization of Federal SBHC Grant Program

SBHCs are not currently an authorized federal program; although SBHCs may compete for a variety of federal grants, there is no program dedicated *specifically* to school-based health centers. This means that SBHCs, as an unauthorized entity, were unable to take advantage of supplemental government funding opportunities, such as the stimulus act or relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina, despite their important role as a safety net provider.

- House bill, the *Affordable Health Care for America Act* (H.R.3962):
Title V, Subtitle B, Part 1, Sec. 2511 (pages 1352-1360 of the bill) creates a federally authorized program for SBHCs.
- Senate bill, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*:
Title IV, Subtitle B, Sec. 4101(b) (pages 1158 - 1167 of the bill) creates a federally authorized program for SBHCs.

Reimbursement through Public Insurance Programs

SBHCs often do not get reimbursed for the care they provide to children who are enrolled in health plans through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), because the centers do not meet all the requirements mandated by publicly funded HMOs and other similar entities.

- House bill, the *Affordable Health Care for America Act* (H.R.3962):
Title V, Subtitle B, Part 1, Sec. 2511 includes a section that requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that SBHCs are reimbursed for covered services provided to children enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP. **(See Sec. (i), pages 1356-1357 of the bill.)**
- Senate bill, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*:
We believe conferees will accept it, though this is not in the Senate version.

Cost-Based Reimbursement

For most SBHCs, the reimbursement rates through Medicaid/CHIP do not cover the full cost of providing the type of comprehensive care that the centers provide. Cost-based reimbursement is a higher rate that more accurately reflects the true costs of providing services.

- House bill, the *Affordable Health Care for America Act* (H.R.3962):
Title VII, Subtitle C, Sec. 1730B (page 1075 of the bill) allows SBHCs that are grantees under the new program to be reimbursed by Medicaid and CHIP on a cost-related basis similarly to federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and Urban Indian Health Programs.
- Senate bill, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*:
 The Senate bill as introduced does NOT include a cost-based reimbursement provision. But it is hoped the conferees will accept the House language.

Short-Term Appropriation

Many SBHCs are at risk of closing as a result of revenue loss due to the current economic downturn (state budget cuts, reduced philanthropic support, etc.).

- House bill, the *Affordable Health Care for America Act* (H.R.3962):
 The House bill does NOT include a short-term appropriation. They have informally agreed to accept it.
- Senate bill, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*:
Title IV, Subtitle B, Sec. 4101(a) (pages 1156-1158 of the bill) appropriates \$50 million in FY 2010 through FY 2013, to be allocated in a competitive grant process

AT-A-GLANCE COMPARISON OF HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS

AS OF 1/19/2010	Authorization of Federal SBHC Grant Program	Reimbursement through Public Insurance Programs	Cost-Based Reimbursement	Short-term Appropriation
HOUSE BILL				
	✓	✓	✓	
SENATE BILL				
	✓			✓