



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE

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School-Based Wellness Centers in High-Needs Elementary Schools

HB 129

March 2021

The League of Women Voters of Delaware wishes to be on record in favor of HB 129. This is based on our support of policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

A School-based wellness center can frankly be a child's only access into the health care system. This is particularly true in the high need areas targeted by this bill.

The advantages of having medical services available right at the school make up a very long list – and not just for the child, who is the direct beneficiary of the health care and whose time away from school will be minimized. Parents, too, are aided by not having to lose work time to get to school, pick up their child, and take him/her to a health care facility. And importantly, in the areas targeted by this bill, the parent may have neither ready access to transportation nor a regular medical provider.

Expenditures for health care are reduced by wellness centers, as they can prevent the use of emergency rooms and can also provide that care when a problem is at an early stage, avoiding greater pain and suffering

– and expense – later on. Net savings to Medicaid, in studies around the country, have been documented.*

Let's do this! Wellness centers in high need elementary schools!

*“Economic Evaluation of School-based Health Centers,” American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 2016: 51 (1) pp 129-138