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KENTUCKY PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION to Support Local Health Department School Nursing Services

WHEREAS coordinated school health is an integrated set of planned, sequential strategies, activities and services designed to promote optimal physical, emotional, social and educational development of students in a safe and healthy environment,

WHEREAS Kentucky has a joint Coordinated School Health (CSH) initiative between the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH), and local health departments already serve an integral part of providing access to care for mandated health services as well as emergency services and health education activities through school partnerships in more than 550 school sites across the Commonwealth,

WHEREAS Local Health Department (LHDs) School Nurse programs are at risk of dissolving potentially affecting over 250,000 students due to LHDs being required to provide the state's portion of the Federal Medicaid Match previously funded by the Department of Medicaid Services,

WHEREAS LHDs had a budgeted operating deficit over \$9.7 million for FY2011 before the Federal Medicaid Match requirement which increased the deficit by \$9.4 million to a total operating deficit of \$19.1 million for the current year,

WHEREAS the American Academy of Pediatrics supports having a full time nurse in every school as the best means of ensuring a strong connection with each student's medical home,

WHEREAS a review by the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission adopted July 2010 states that "Health Departments are devoted to health education and disease prevention, which school district nurses might have limited time to provide. Health Department nurses can perform immunizations and other services that school district nurses cannot. Nurses from the health department also can provide the same direct health services that school district nurses can",

WHEREAS based on an article in the American Journal of Public Health "School Based Health Centers could have saved Medicaid about \$35 per student per year" concluding that SBHC's are cost beneficial to both the Medicaid system and society, and may close health care disparity gaps,

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says chronic conditions consumed 75 cents of every health care dollar spent in the United States in 2005. When school nurses identify and manage these conditions, they stave off future health problems and help reduce overall health care spending,

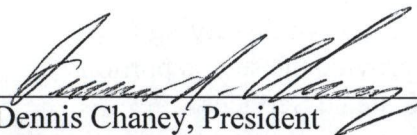
WHEREAS Local Health Departments provided school nurse services for FY2010 at an average cost per student served of \$195 per year,

WHEREAS the FY2010 funding structure not requiring health departments to pay the Medicaid Match provided a ratio of one nurse to every 787 students outside the managed care structure compared to one nurse to every 2,483 students in the managed care region,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kentucky Public Health Association requests the General Assembly allocate funding to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for the purpose of funding the Federal match requirements for Local Health Department services provided to Medicaid recipients to ensure the sustainability of current school health services being provided through health departments,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, the Secretary of Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Commissioner of the Department for Public Health, the Commissioner of the Department of Medicaid Services and to all members of the Kentucky General Assembly.

This resolution was approved by the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Public Health Association this 19 day of January 2011.



Dennis Chaney, President
Kentucky Public Health Association