

SB0628: School-Based Health Centers - Services, Infrastructure, and Funding

**UNFAVORABLE**

Kara Fisher

Dear Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair and Senate Finance Committee:

I ask you to oppose SB 628 that would expand and finance additional school-based health centers.

My professional experience is in health strategy, design and planning of outpatient health clinics.

Maryland's school systems should focus on their core competency of educating children. The disparate school systems should not go into the business of running outpatient centers.

With little experience, it is unlikely that the school-based centers will be able to deliver a high-quality medical offering as compared to established physician offices and walk-in clinics.

Managing pediatric health care services in an outpatient setting is quite complex. It would be easy to fail families.

One anticipated service of the clinics would be to administer vaccines.

The HHS Office of Inspector General found that 76% of providers of a Vaccines for Children program did not meet vaccine management requirements related to keeping them at correct temperatures and managing expiration dates. Complex vaccine administration should be kept in physicians' offices.

[Source: [Vaccines for Children Program: Vulnerabilities in Vaccine Management \(OEI-04-10-00430\) 06-05-2012 \(hhs.gov\)](#)]

Thank you.

Kara Fisher, MBA

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