

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 10

Introduced by Assembly Member Brownley

March 30, 2011

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 10—Relative to school-based health centers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 10, as introduced, Brownley. School-based health centers.

This measure would memorialize the Legislature’s support for the school-based health center program authorized by the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, an appropriation by the United States Congress to fund this program, policies that include school-based health centers as a partner in creating a medical home for all children, and the inclusion of school-based health centers in the reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, School health centers, which operate in 176 schools
2 across California, are an integral part of the state’s health care
3 delivery system, providing preventative and treatment services to
4 pupils who may otherwise have no or limited access to health care;
5 and
6 WHEREAS, School health centers improve academic
7 achievement by increasing the physical and mental health status
8 of pupils, thereby raising attendance rates, reducing dropout rates,
9 and improving classroom attention and behavior; and
10 WHEREAS, Despite challenging academic times, many
11 communities across California have made it a priority to piece

1 together local, federal, and private money to start and run school
2 health centers; and

3 WHEREAS, There is still a high level or unmet need for school
4 health centers because many California children do not have access
5 to high-quality, affordable health care, as shown by the fact that
6 1.5 million California children were uninsured for at least part of
7 2009, which is up 40 percent from 2007, and by the fact that one
8 in five California children lack dental coverage; and

9 WHEREAS, Low-income children and children of color are
10 less likely to have access to health care, with only 32 percent of
11 children in families with incomes below the federal poverty line,
12 32 percent of Latino children, and 42 percent of African American
13 children having a “medical home”, as compared to 66 percent of
14 Caucasian children; and

15 WHEREAS, The Legislature has already demonstrated its strong
16 support for school health centers through the passage of important
17 pieces of state legislation, including the Healthy Start Support
18 Services for Children Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section
19 8800) of Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code)
20 and the Public School Health Center Support Program (Article 10
21 (commencing with Section 124174) of Chapter 3 of Part 2 of
22 Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code); and

23 WHEREAS, The United States Congress authorized a
24 school-based health center program in the federal Patient Protection
25 and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), but did not
26 appropriate money to fund it; now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
28 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature supports the school-based
29 health center program authorized by the federal Patient Protection
30 and Affordable Care Act, as enacted by the United States Congress
31 in 2010; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports an appropriation by the
33 United States Congress to fund the school-based health center
34 program authorized by the federal Patient Protection and
35 Affordable Care Act, as enacted by the United States Congress in
36 2010; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports policies that include
38 school-based health centers as a partner in creating a medical home
39 for all children; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports the inclusion of
2 school-based health centers in the reauthorization of the federal
3 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec.6301 et
4 seq.) as an important strategy for ensuring that pupils are physically
5 and mentally healthy and therefore ready to learn; and be it further
6 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
7 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
8 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
9 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
10 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
11 States.

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