

Senator Michael J. Rodrigues
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

April 30, 2024

Dear Senator Rodrigues,

We are writing to urge you to favorably review [Senate Bill 794 An Act relative to MassHealth reimbursement for schools](#).

The Massachusetts School Nurse Organization (MSNO) is the professional organization representing over 2400 school nurses from public and private schools throughout the Commonwealth. **MSNO supports this legislation to require that Local Education Agencies (LEAs), which obtain MassHealth reimbursement for providing school-based services and administrative services, maintain proceeds of MassHealth reimbursement to fund school-based services and related administrative services. Proceeds should not supplant existing or planned school health funding.**

We support this legislation to return school-based Medicaid reimbursement funds directly back to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) for these reasons:

- The following professionals are recognized by MassHealth as Qualified for School Medicaid billing: Licensed Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA), Licensed Assistant Applied Behavior Analyst (AABA), Autism Specialist, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Licensed Psychiatrist, Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Educational Psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Licensed School Psychologist, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, Licensed Audiologist, Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist, Licensed Occupational Therapist, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, Licensed Physical Therapist, Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant, Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, Licensed Audiologist, Dental Hygienist, Licensed Nutritionist/Dietitian, Personal Care Service Provider (including paraprofessionals and Nurse Aides), Optometrist.
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-based-medicaid-program-sbmp-resource-center#general-program-information->
- Education dollars/LEA budgets funding School Health Service programming are vastly reduced with discontinued federal funding (e.g. ESSER III) and communities vetoing school budget override funding, and School-based Medicaid monies could provide a revenue stream to support this School Health Services programming;
- School health services provided to Medicaid-eligible students will support educational achievement for all students, including newcomer students.

On behalf of MSNO, thank you in advance for favorably reviewing this bill,

Cathryn E. Hampson, MSN, RN, NCSN

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