

WASHINGTON, DC –Congressman Joe Courtney today announced that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$436,237 in competitive funding through the School-Based Health Center Capital Program to the Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut. The grant is a product of the Affordable Care Act, which provided a total of \$200 million for FY 2010 through FY 2013 for school-based health centers. The first round of grants total \$95 million and will go to 278 school-based health center programs across the country, including Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut.

"This is the latest concrete example of how the Affordable Care Act is making a positive impact in our communities," **said Congressman Courtney**. "This grant will help keep our children healthy and improve access to the high-quality care they need. With short wait times, unmatched proximity to students and a high level of coordination with other providers in the community, there is no more efficient delivery system for the health care of our children than a school-based health center. These funds will ensure that students, many of whom rely on these centers for primary care, can get back on their feet and back in the classroom."

"This funding will increase the availability, efficiency, and quality of care for children and adolescents," **said JoAnn M. Eaccarino, Associate Director for School Based Programs at Child & Family Agency**. "It will improve the quality of both the physical and behavioral care offered at the health centers."

The Child & Family Agency will use the funding to install an electronic health record system at 18 centers they run in New London, Groton, Norwich, and Waterford, where more than 7,000 children are enrolled for services. Specifically, the upgrades will improve quality and efficiency by making care more widely available, ensuring continuity of care between the centers and other community providers, and avoiding duplication of services.

Investments made through the School-Based Health Center Capital Program, which were announced nationally by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Education Secretary Arne Duncan today, are provided by the Affordable Care Act to help clinics expand and provide more health care services at schools across the country. They represent the first-ever source of federal funding to uniquely support school-based health centers. Despite improvements in the wellness of children, reduced burdens on emergency rooms, and overall cost-effectiveness, House Republicans voted to repeal this funding for school-based health clinics in the House by passing H.R. 1214 on May 4.

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