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Dear [Members of the House Education Committee]

The Rural Health Association of Tennessee would like to take this opportunity to show you some of the highlights of Coordinated School Health (CSH) in Tennessee's schools.

- As a result of CSH school health screenings, 104,532 children were referred to a doctor, predominantly for BMI, vision and dental care. These children may not have otherwise been referred to a health care provider
- CSH implementations in the ten pilot sites has led to improvements in students' weight status as well as more health screenings, increased intervention by school nurses, and increased instructional time for students in Tennessee
- CSH pilot sites have consistently met the state goal of a less than 10% dropout rate- in 2008, the dropout rate for CSH pilot sites was 7.1%
- As a result of CSH, there are more nurses in schools which results in more students returned to the classroom and less absenteeism
- CSH has established strong partnerships with county health departments, universities, businesses, hospitals and non-profit organizations

In light of this data and the fact that the cost per student in Tennessee to maintain Coordinated School Health is only \$15, we ask that you continue to fund Coordinated School Health in the budget after the 21 month stimulus funding ends.

The Rural Health Association of Tennessee is a membership-based organization whose mission is to improve the health of rural Tennesseans by providing leadership on rural issues through advocacy, communication, education, and legislation.

Sincerely,

*Deborah Murph*

Deborah Murph  
President