

Dear Gov. Schwarzenegger:

I respectfully request that you veto AB 2560, which encourages the establishment of more school health centers in our public schools.

A large percentage of these centers provide reproductive health services in addition to primary care. Many also offer mental health services. Reproductive services include the distribution of contraceptives and sexual health counseling without parental consent. Most parents are not aware that as early as seventh grade their children can obtain such services without parental knowledge or consent. Notification is often hidden in pages and pages of small print provided in a large packet at the beginning of the school year. Even if parents are aware of this very anti-parent policy, they cannot protect their children by prohibiting visits to the health center.

Parents, not schools, need to help children make moral decisions that will affect their physical and emotional well-being for years to come. If schools interfere with these areas that are the domain of the family, they will only create a lack of trust between parents and schools.

Mental health screening and counseling without parental consent drive a wedge between families and schools. Please veto AB 2560.

Respectfully,