



May 28, 2025

Dr. Jeanie Alter  
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American School Health Association (ASHA)  
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Dear Congressperson,

I am writing on behalf of the American School Health Association, a national professional association representing a diverse membership of nurses, social workers, educators, and others who are focused on the connection between health and learning. We know that if we work in a coordinated fashion, we can transform schools into places where every student learns and thrives.

**We are reaching out to express our concern about proposed cuts to adolescent and school health** especially those related to data collection and school health programming. Data collection at the national level (e.g., YRBS and School Health Profiles) is critical to states, districts, and schools in effectively identifying, addressing, and evaluating student needs. National data sources serve as an early warning system for student needs by providing regular monitoring of student knowledge, skills, and behaviors and early identification of local issues. This standard data collection across districts and states provides monitoring of state trends against national trends (e.g., sexual activity, violence) to better determine whether local issues are outpacing national issues. Once a student's need has been identified, it can be addressed by mobilizing community resources to make local curriculum decisions, implement policy, and/or launch a school health program. These national data sources are critical in evaluating these efforts and establishing an evidence base for school health programs, policies, and practices so that their effectiveness can be established for implementation at other schools across the nation.

**In sum, we believe that reduced funding for adolescent and school health is not in the best interest of students.**

We are grateful for your support of opportunities for federal entities to come together around school health to inform strategic priorities and integration of efforts that are student-centered. We are here to be your resource and can provide information about current issues facing schools and students, cutting-edge school health research, and access to experts and stories from the field.

We look forward to continued conversations,

Jeanie Alter