



**President of the Board**

Deborah Both

**Executive Director**

Angela Jones Hackley

TESTIMONY OF

Frankeena Wright, Senior Health Policy Analyst

DC ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Before the COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Mayor's Proposed FY 2007 Budget for the  
Maternal and Family Health Administration

March 22, 2006

I am Frankeena Wright, Senior Health Policy Analyst, for DC Action for Children, a non-profit, multi-issue children's advocacy organization. I am pleased to submit comment regarding the Mayor's FY 2007 budget for the Maternal and Family Health Administration School Health Program.

According to the Maternal and Family Health Administration, the School Health Program did not receive any additional funding in the mayor's proposed FY 2007 budget. Earlier this year, along with the city council leadership, the Department of Health, DC Public Schools, the Department of Mental Health and other community partners, created a plan to improve the delivery and quality of school-based health care services. The plan required additional funding to improve health service facilities, hiring additional nurses, enhancing IT infrastructure, evaluation, and the creation of an online health record registry. The Department of Health estimated this would cost an additional \$4-\$7 million. However, the mayor did not allocate any additional funding for the school health program for expansion.

Further, without additional funding it is impossible to fiscally support the increased health service demands as a result of the "Child and Youth, Safety and Health Omnibus Bill." As you know, this bill requires all nurses be assigned to public schools, including public charter schools. This will obviously have budget implications for FY 2007. Currently the school nurse program is serving 30 public charter schools and there are approximately 50 public charter schools in the city.

The Department of Health requested an additional \$1.2 million to expand nursing services in FY 2007. Although the request was not approved, it will be considered in the mayor's FY 2007 contingency fund.

The Mayor's FY 2007 budget is obviously not enough to fully fund the school health program. As mandated by law, we implore the Council to fully fund the School Health Program in order to provide nursing services at all DC public and public charter schools.