



March 2010

Dear Friends,

The DC Assembly on School Health Care has been a vocal, visible and effective local advocate for school health in Washington, DC for the past 6 years. It is with deep regret that I inform you that as of March 31, 2010, the DC Assembly will be significantly scaling back and will become an all-volunteer organization. We will continue to monitor school health issues but will no longer have paid staff dedicated to this. This decision was not entered into lightly or without careful consideration, but the Board thought that this was the best and necessary course of action given the current economic climate.

The DC Assembly has been successful in advancing the discussions and issues pertaining to school health in DC, particularly with respect to school health centers. We are optimistic that the momentum for school health programming and services will continue to move these objectives forward. We are thankful and grateful to those who have partnered with and/or supported us in our efforts to dispense prescription medications in the school health centers, expand the network of school health centers in DC, secure Medicaid reimbursement for the centers, promote school health as a vital component of our youth's school experience, and many other noteworthy efforts and accomplishments.

In order to keep the discussions of school health front and center, we will organize and lead a volunteer school health work group. Our current Executive Director, Jennifer Leonard, will lead this work group on a volunteer basis. If you are interested in being part of this work group, or learning more about it, please contact Jennifer at JLeonard@dcasbhc.org. In addition, we will continue to update our website regularly, so feel free to look for school health-related information at www.dcasbhc.org.

Last not but not least, please let me use this opportunity to commend and thank all of those who work in the field of school health, particularly in the school health centers. They do such important and wonderful work to support our youth. We hope and trust that you will continue to support their tremendous efforts.

With much thanks,

Mark Minier, MD
President