

Date: August 17, 2007

Action Requested: NASP needs you to ask your US Senators and Representatives for support for the Mental Health in the Schools Act of 2007 (HR 3430).

NASP needs you to send a letter to your U.S. Senators and Representatives asking for support for the Mental Health in the Schools Act of 2007 (HR 3430). This is critical legislation that NASP has been working on with our coalition partners for over two years to expand school based mental health services. The bill seeks over \$200 million in additional funding for the Safe Schools Healthy Students program and expands this program to emphasize school mental health services. The specific elements of HR 3430 that are of particular importance are that the bill a) uses a comprehensive staff development model to improve the knowledge and skills of both school and community providers in responding to student mental health needs; b) acknowledges the different roles and importance of having qualified school-employed and community-employed mental health providers offering these services; c) promotes a full continuum of mental health services including promotion, prevention, intervention and treatment; d) sets specific student outcomes pertaining to school climate and student mental health as criteria for program effectiveness; e) emphasizes the importance of building the capacity for these programs through local educational agencies; and f) expands the focus of the SSHS program to also provide mental health services.

Here's what we need you to do...

1. **Send a letter to your elected officials through the NASP Advocacy Action Center.** Click on the following link and you will be guided through a simple **1-minute process** for sending an e-mail to your elected official. You only need your name and address to submit this correspondence. [Click here](#) (or type this link into your web browser: <http://capwiz.com/naspweb/issues/alert/?alertid=10198001&type=CO>) **OR**
2. **If you know the name of your US Senators and/or Representative, you can call them by phone: Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121.** Once you are connected with your elected official, you will likely get a voicemail system where you should say, "Hi, my name is (your name) from (your city and state). As your constituent, I am calling to ask for your support of HR 3430 the Mental Health in Schools Act of 2007. I believe that this legislation will help children with mental health needs be more successful in school as they will have greater access to needed mental health services and supports. If you need to reach me for any reason, you can contact me at (your phone number) or (your e-mail address)."
3. **Forward this e-mail to any colleagues, friends, or family members that you think might be interested in participating in this effort.** They do not have to be NASP members to participate.

If you are interested in reading the actual text of this bill, [click here](#), type HR 3430 in the search box, click on Bill Number, and then click SEARCH.

Thank you for your advocacy efforts and being part of the 1-minute solution! If you have any questions or comments about this alert, please feel free to contact NASP Public Policy Director, Stacy Skalski, at sskalski@naspweb.org or 301-657-0270.

***"I never worry about action, but only inaction."
--Winston Churchill***