



For Immediate Release  
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### STRAUS CALLS GOVERNOR ROMNEY'S ATTEMPT TO CUT SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMS SHORT-SIGHTED

Boston: Rep. Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett) today attacked Governor Romney's FY 05 proposal to eliminate \$12.5 million in funding for school-based health programs.

In a letter to House Ways and Means Chairman John Rogers, Straus stressed the importance of school nurses, especially at a time when childhood disorders including asthma, diabetes and obesity, are on the rise.

"It is irresponsible to be cutting funding for nurses who provide the first line of defense in identifying many health problems, and provide hands-on treatment for asthmatics, allergic reactions, blood sugar tests and proper dispensation of medication," stated Rep. Straus.

The funding for school-based health programs serve more than half-a-million students across the state. Also, nurses provide initial assessments of health problems because of the increase in the number of parents and guardians without health insurance.

The House will release its FY 05 Budget in April.