

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

NYSAAP, District II, Chapters 1, 2 & 3



June 30, 2023

## Memo of Support

### ATV Safety & Minors A.150/S.2702

The NYS American Academy of Pediatrics (NYSAAP), representing more than 5,000 pediatricians across the state, enthusiastically supports A.150/S.2702 which will raise the age from ten to fourteen for children's use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

The AAP advises parents that ATVs are not safe for children and should not be used by any child under the age of 16. Though this legislation does not bar children under 16 from riding ATVs, if implemented, it does have the potential to save many young lives. It also sends a strong message to parents about the potential dangers of young children riding ATVs.

New York ranks amongst the top ten states in ATV deaths and injuries. Roughly a quarter of those accidents involve children.

Since 1987, the AAP has had a clear policy about the use of motorized cycles by children, including ATVs. **Children who are too young to have a driver's license should not be allowed to operate or ride off-road vehicles.** Children are involved in about 30 percent of all ATV-related deaths and emergency room-treated injuries. Because their nervous systems and judgment have not fully developed, off-road vehicles are particularly dangerous for children younger than 16 years.

There is an urgent need for action to address the safety issues of ATV use by minors. Each year it is estimated over 100,000 people in the U.S. are injured on ATVs. Over twenty-five percent of injuries are children under the age of 16. Unfortunately, almost twenty-five percent of ATV related deaths also are children under the age of 16. Increasing the age of permissible ATV use by minors would prevent a significant number of ATV injuries and deaths to New York's children.

We urge the Governor to sign A.150/S.2702 as soon as possible to help us keep young children off ATVs.

#### Contact:

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