

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



## NYSAAP, District II, Chapters 1, 2 & 3

### Memo of Support

Amend Education law to allow certain persons to apply topical fluoride varnish

A7402-A/S9308

The New York State American Academy of Pediatrics, District II Chapters 1,2, &3 representing over 4,500 pediatricians supports A7402-A/S9308 which would expand the access to topical fluoride varnish for children. Oral health is an essential part of overall health and well-being for children and expanding the types of persons who can apply fluoride varnish will create important access to preventive care.

Dental disease is the most common chronic childhood disease, impacting more than 40% of children before they reach kindergarten<sup>1</sup>. Oral health disease disproportionately affects children of color, impacting children's ability to sleep, eat nutritiously, and learn.

Fluoride varnish is an easy preventive measure that can support oral health. Fluoride varnish is applied topically to teeth and children who receive fluoride varnish every three months have fewer cavities than children who do not receive fluoride varnish. Fluoride varnish is a reimbursable service. But despite the evidence, and reimbursement for the service, most children do not get a dental visit that applies fluoride varnish.

A7402-A/S9308 will expand the types of persons who can apply fluoride varnish, allowing dental and pediatric offices to use more types of licensed staff, to apply fluoride varnish. The legislation also allows parents to apply fluoride varnish during a telehealth visit which will further improve access and allow children who received fluoride varnish the full protective benefits. including which will increase access. Good oral health is important for overall child health and wellbeing, especially for young children. Expanding access to fluoride varnish is also an important piece of promoting and advancing health equity.

**Passing A7402-A/S9308 will advance health equity and improve oral health for children.**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/dental/child\\_oral\\_health\\_fluoride\\_varnish\\_for\\_hcp.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/dental/child_oral_health_fluoride_varnish_for_hcp.htm)