

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



NYSAAP, District II, Chapters 1, 2 & 3

Memo of Support **Protecting Families and Providers of Youth Receiving Gender-Affirming Care** **S.7506A Hoylman-Sigal/ A7687A Bronson**

NYS American Academy of Pediatrics, representing more than 4,000 pediatricians across New York State, strongly supports S.7506A/A.7687A. This legislation is an important next step in strengthening protections for families and providers caring for youth receiving gender-affirming care in NYS.

Access to gender affirming care is a standard of care in pediatrics. All young people and their families should have access to counseling and appropriate medical care on their journey toward gender identity.

Research shows that receiving timely appropriate gender affirming care, both counseling, family support and medical care can be lifesaving as well as life affirming. Denying young people gender affirming care has been shown to contribute to depression, eating disorders, isolation, and self harm.

Gender-affirming care is recognized as necessary by medical and mental health associations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics. But, despite the evidence and professional support, states continue to pass bills which limit access to essential gender-affirming care and services, including laws that separate families and punish providers. While other states pass bills seek to ban gender affirming care for transgender youth and establish criminal penalties for providing such care, NYS is creating a safe-haven for youth and families.

This bill would extend protections around gender-affirming care including prohibiting family separation on the basis of a youth receiving gender-affirming care, extend emergency jurisdiction to children in states that have been unable to access gender-affirming care, and will incorporate gender-affirming care as legally protected services whether delivered in-person or via telehealth

Passing S.7506A/A.7687A, will build on NYS shield laws and expand NYS commitment to support children, youth, families and their health care providers in supporting access to essential quality gender-affirming care

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