



# 2017 PRIORITY PEDIATRIC POLICY, BUDGET & PRACTICE ISSUES

New York State American Academy of Pediatrics (NYS AAP)  
*A Coalition of AAP NY Chapters 1, 2 & 3*

## WORKING TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### Medicaid and CHIP Need Your Support!

We urge you to support all efforts to maintain and strengthen New York State's Medicaid and New York State's Child Health Plus (CHIP) program. These two programs provide health insurance coverage to more than 2 million New York children. That's almost half the children across our state!

Any reduction in CHIP or Medicaid would be a tragic mistake. The children of New York are counting on you to protect their access to vital health care. If the federal government makes a decision to cut Medicaid and CHIP, it will be up to you, our state representatives, to assure that our key children's health programs are fully funded.

### Bright Futures Medical Home for All Children

As the state moves through various health care systems reform initiatives, DSRIP, Advanced Primary

Care, Value Based Payment, we support using the 2017, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the AAP Bright Futures Medical Home model as the basis of all public, subsidized and private insurance coverage in the state. Including children's mental health services in the pediatric primary care setting, and the payment for such services completes the model for NYS.

### Reach Out & Read

New York State needs to invest in evidence based early literacy as a principle of child development and to support early brain development. We support a first year state investment of \$250,000 to initiate a statewide feasibility study as to how best move Reach Out and Read to a universally available program in all pediatric clinics and offices.

### Reproductive Health Care

All women, girls, men and boys in New York State must have access to appropriate, accessible, affordable and timely reproductive health care. Any reduction in financial, legal or community support for reproductive health care is unacceptable anywhere in New York State.

### Nurse Family Partnership

Families at risk are supported and nurtured by this evidence based family strength based program. New York needs to invest state dollars to assure that all at risk new parents have access to this proven program. If we are ever to bend the cost curve, we need to work to make programs that are effective available to the families that need them. The health and well-being of children whose families have access to Nurse Family Partnership programs is demonstratively better than the outcomes for families in similar circumstances who do not have access to the program.

### Child Care

**Universal** access to and quality of infant and child care is a core pillar of ensuring children's health and well-being. We urge our state leaders to invest in both increasing the number of child care slots available to families and to support training and fair wages for child care providers. Child care is not a frill. It is a necessity for most New York families. It is the responsibility of government to



## Child Care

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assure that child care is not only available, but that it is safe, educationally sound, and supports the social and emotional development of infants and children in care.

## Educational Equity

Educational equity is a requirement of the “American Dream.” We support investments that help all schools meet the needs of their most vulnerable and neediest students, as well as those who are gifted and talented. Zip Codes should not be destiny. Where you live and where you go to school should not determine the quality of your elementary and secondary school experience. Education is supposed to level the playing field, not entrench inequality!

## Food Security & Stable Housing

New York State’s children and their families deserve access to affordable, healthy food and a stable home. That tens of thousands of families and children across the state experience hunger more than once a week and are in unstable housing, doubled up or homeless is completely unacceptable. In the richest country in the world, and one of the richest states, allowing children to go hungry and homeless is just not acceptable. We can and must do better to ensure that our future generations can grow up healthy, productive and secure.

## Pediatric Standards for All Urgent Care Centers

As Urgent Care Centers proliferate across New York, we urge the state to create and implement pediatric standards for those Urgent Care Centers that profess to serve children. **Urgent care centers that offer services to children should at a minimum have a pediatric trained physician, i.e. a pediatrician, family medicine or pediatric emergency physician, and a pediatric nurse practitioner on staff during all operating hours.** Urgent Care Centers should also be required to communicate with a child’s medical home physician about any treatment given.

## And...

We also fully endorse budget support for **Taxing E-Cigarettes, offering Dreamers financial support for post high school education,** and additional resources for **Immigration Legal Services.**

