

From: Dr. Fernando Stein [mailto:kids1st@aap.org]

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American Academy
of Pediatrics



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A Message from AAP President Fernando Stein, MD, FAAP

Dear Dr. Hoepfner:

As your new AAP President, I look forward to partnering with you to advance the Academy's mission and do our best work for children.

I am not the only new President taking office this month; next week, Donald Trump will be sworn in as the 45th President of the United States, and a newly elected Congress has already begun its work since they took office in early January.

Many of you have written in to me and others in AAP leadership wondering how you can help advance our agenda for children to these newly elected leaders. There is much work that needs to be done, and we are going to need pediatrician advocacy like never before.

Two actions you can take right now to be on the frontlines of advocacy are as follows:

- **Sign up for the Academy's Key Contact program.** Email kids1st@aap.org with your name, AAP ID (if known) and preferred email address. This group receives targeted requests for advocacy action around key votes, and receives weekly federal legislative updates that provide a detailed sense of what's going on in Washington.
- **Register to attend our Legislative Conference** at www.aap.org/legcon. Especially for members new to advocacy, this meeting is an ideal opportunity to learn the skills you need to be an effective advocate. Attendees will go to the Hill, hear from congressional staff and White House officials and attend skills-building workshops to learn how to share impactful messages, build coalitions, and more. The conference also has a subspecialty advocacy track and a global health track this year. I highly recommend this meeting and will be there myself to take part!

Beyond these immediate opportunities, I want to assure you that AAP leaders, members and staff are fully engaged in making our voice for pediatricians and for children heard in Washington. Here are a few examples of how:

- On Tuesday, I, along with AAP CEO/Executive Vice President Dr. Remley, issued a [statement](#) responding to a potential new federal commission on vaccines. Our response made an impact: Our [tweet](#) was shared more than 600 times, our statement was picked up by major media networks and our members were quick to jump in and amplify.
- We are [partnering](#) with three leading medical organizations to bring our [concerns](#) about children's coverage to targeted members of Congress.

- We submitted questions about child health to the Senate committees overseeing Rep. Tom Price's (R-Ga.) confirmation hearings next week for Health and Human Services Secretary.
- We are in active conversation with children's health groups to collaborate on new materials with facts and data on children's coverage state by state, to share with pediatricians and congressional staff.
- Later this month, the AAP Board of Directors will convene in Elk Grove Village, Ill. to approve a new strategic plan to guide the Academy's mission and vision over the next five years.
- On February 28th we will be bringing a representative of each chapter to Washington to advocate in person for programs that matter for children.

The Academy is pulling out all the stops at every turn and taking nothing as a guaranteed outcome. Sometimes that may mean a quick and bold press statement. Other times that may mean work behind the scenes to persuade members of Congress to support child health priorities. Other times it may mean broad, grassroots calls to action to all 66,000 AAP members to send a clear message.

In the days ahead, we will be turning more and more to you, Dr. Hoepfner. This week, Congress passed a procedural measure paving the way for repealing the Affordable Care Act, and changes to public programs like Medicaid are likely to soon follow. We are going to need every AAP member working together if we are going to move the needle for children in opposing any threats to these programs, and we are going to need to be especially thoughtful about when and how we engage if we are to make the most impact.

Advocacy is a marathon, not a sprint. As your AAP President, I will depend on your continued partnership in the days and months ahead so that we can be the most effective voice for children we can be.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Fernando Stein, MD, FAAP
President
American Academy of Pediatrics
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