



## Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics

**2016 State Legislative Agenda****2016 Legislative Priorities**

*We advocate for:*

- *Improved health care for children through adequate Medicaid and CHIP funding:* The Alabama Chapter-AAP keeps as its permanent priority protection of funding of Medicaid and CHIP coverage for children, who have no voice and who comprise only 24 percent of the state portion of the budget yet 50 percent of the number of Medicaid recipients. This year, the Chapter specifically advocates for sustainable and permanent revenue solutions to adequately fund Medicaid/CHIP and other health and human service agencies through the General Fund. The Chapter also joins other healthcare provider groups in assuring that quality child health remains at the center of the state's effort to institute Regional Care Organizations, and specifically advocates for a system that promotes access for children.

- *Medical Home Protection:* With the medical home established as the best place for patients to receive primary healthcare, the Chapter opposed any legislation that threatens the medical home and supports legislative efforts to protect it, and endorses Alabama's current collaborative model between physicians and nurse practitioners/physician extenders as ideal for delivery of that care.

- *Adequate funding for birth to 5 services:* The Chapter endorses the Alabama School Readiness Alliance efforts to increase and protect funding for state-funded, voluntary, high-quality, pre-k programs, as well as protect adequate funding for early intervention services and early literacy services.

- *Protecting the health of children through adherence to current AAP guidelines/standards:* The Alabama Chapter-AAP opposes any legislation that dictates requirements for the practice of medicine that violate current American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines and recommendations for the care of children.

- *Safe Births:* The Chapter opposes any legislation that lowers the standard of childbirth care, considering the hospital as the safest place for childbirth.

**2016 Educational Priorities**

- *Expansion of Medicaid:* The Chapter joins organizations in Alabama's BEST coalition to promote expanded health care access for low-income Alabamians who don't currently qualify for Medicaid. Studies by UAB and the University of Alabama conclude that expanded coverage would provide healthcare access for 300,000 Alabamians, almost two-thirds of whom are employed, and create 30,000 new jobs.

- *E-cigarette regulation/taxation:* The Chapter will work to educate legislators and the public on the AAP position that candy and fruit flavored e-cigarettes, which encourage youth smoking initiation, should be banned, and that federal, state, and local governments should enact and enforce laws that mandate the provision of smoke-free environments, including e-cigarette vapor, in all public places and require employers to provide smoke-free/e-cigarette vapor-free work environments for their employees.