



Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics 2017 State Legislative Agenda

2017 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 state Medicaid reform efforts, and specifically advocates for a system that promotes access for children.

- *Protection of the Medical Home and the practice of medicine:* With the medical home established as the best place for patients to receive primary healthcare, the Chapter opposes any legislation that threatens the medical home and supports legislative efforts to protect it. The Chapter also opposes any attempts by non-physicians to control the practice of medicine or interfere with the doctor-patient relationship, or legislation that dictates requirements for the practice of medicine that violate current American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines and recommendations for the care of children.

- *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.

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

- *Safe Child Care:* In an effort to promote safe, high-quality child care throughout Alabama, the Chapter supports mandatory licensing of every child care/day care center in the state.

2017 Educational Priorities

- *Protection of health insurance benefits to children:* The Alabama Chapter-AAP continues to advocate for the many benefits of the Affordable Care Act for children, including required coverage of preventive health benefits and immunizations, prohibition of lifetime caps, especially for medically needy children, and expanded health care access for their parents who don't currently qualify for Medicaid.

