

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™  
NYSAAP, District II, Chapters 1, 2 & 3



## **Memo of Support A.10066/S. 7881**

May 23, 20016

The NYS American Academy of Pediatrics (NYSAAP), representing more than 4,000 pediatricians across the state, fully supports A.10066/S.7881. This bill provides a technical fix to existing Maternal Depression Screen legislation, by specifically allowing pediatricians to bill Maternal Depression Screening to the infant's insurance.

The original legislation did not make this option distinctly clear, and the state issued guidance which only allowed billing to the Mothers' insurance. This misreading of legislative intent led to overly complex billing procedures in pediatric practices. In no instance was the Mother ever a patient in the practice, and therefore billing required creating a new billing file. In addition, there were instances where the Mother and child did not have the same insurance and even instances where the pediatrician serving the child was not part of Mother's insurance network.

Maternal Depression is a child health issue and should have been billable to the child's file from day one, if the screening was done in a pediatric practice. Indeed, that is how every other state implemented Maternal Depression Screening.

Passage of this technical amendment will facilitate Maternal Depression Screening in the pediatric office. One of the major reasons to allow Maternal Depression Screening in the pediatric office is that many Moms struggling with depression may not see their own physician, but will take their baby to their pediatrician for scheduled visits during the first year of life. These regular visits allow the pediatrician to check up on the status of the Mother and to screen when appropriate.

Maternal Depression Screening is a mother and child health issue and can and should be billable to the infants insurance when screening is done in the pediatric office.

We urge you to pass this bill quickly, so we can resolve this final barrier to universally available Maternal Depression Screening.

For Additional Information Contact:

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