



2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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

Child Poverty Reduction Act

A.1160/S.2755

This legislation provides New York State leaders with the tools needed to reduce child poverty. It requires New York to make a public commitment to cutting child poverty in half by 2030, requires an annual public report of the effects that any adjustment or reduction by the director of the budget will have on child poverty, establishes the Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council to develop a plan to achieve this goal, requires regular reporting to hold government to account; and directs the Advisory Council to evaluate policies proven to sharply cut child poverty including:

- Strengthening and expanding New York's Earned Income Tax Credit
- Expanding and strengthening New York's child tax credit to include young children
- Expanding work training and employment programs
- Increasing access to subsidized housing vouchers
- Expanding access to subsidized child care

It is imperative that we pass this bill in New York, because the anti-poverty programs in the federal legislation currently moving in Congress are only funded for one year. We are supporting a long-term commitment to address and ameliorate child poverty in New York State.

Improving Water Quality in Schools

A.160/S.2122

Reduces the level of lead in school drinking water to .005 or 5ppb per liter from the current .015 or 15ppb per liter, requires testing annually from previously every 5 years, and requires free tap water be available to all school occupants. This bill also removes exemptions for certain schools, requires lab test reports to be made public, and requires training for school staff responsible for the lead level testing and maintenance.



Postpartum Medicaid Expansion

A.307a/S.1411

Extends Medicaid postpartum coverage for certain women who access prenatal/postpartum coverage at higher income levels, from 60 days after a pregnancy to 12 months. Even though this expansion is included in the recently passed federal American Rescue Act, it is only federally supported for one year. Our goal is to have to enacted so it becomes part of NYS's ongoing Medicaid coverage.

Requiring Child Health Plus to Cover EPSDT

A.343/S.2538

Children covered by Medicaid are entitled to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic Services, and Treatment (EPSDT). The bill would require Child Health Plus to cover EPSDT. We are supportive, but there is work to be done the assure that the services are not only covered and delivered, but also paid for.

Repeal Medicaid Budget Cap

A.00226/S.5255

The cap is a budget artifice that was imposed during a period of specific crisis. It is not supportive of current health policy and reality-based health budgeting. It should be repealed and allow Medicaid to fully serve those eligible for services.

Expanding the NYS Refundable Child Tax Credit

A.3146

Expands the NYS Refundable Child Tax Credit to more children, and, with the amendment we are supporting, allows families without Social Security numbers to claim the credit through their Tax Payer Identification Number (ITIN). This would provide additional resources to low income working families with 107,000 New York children! It would also be permanent for the families of New York, where at this point the federal Child Credit is for one year only.

NICU Pertussis Protection

A.6478b

Requires health care workers practicing in close proximity to children less than 12 months of age to be vaccinated against pertussis or to wear a mask.

Extended Producer Responsibility for Product Packaging

S.1185

Requires that those who produce recyclable materials bear some (if not all) of the costs of recycling. Here is a link to a recent NYT's article on the bill: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/27/arts/design/recycling-packaging-new-york.html>



Telehealth Legislation

S.5505

Makes coverage for telehealth AND telephone care PERMANENT, at parity with in-office services. Tracks access to broadband for health services like telehealth statewide to assure equity of access. The NYS AAP is currently working with the house of medicine to create the best possible legislation.

Physician Collective Negotiations

A.951/S.1575

Permits some collective negotiations between physicians and health insurance plans under close supervision by the state.

Protecting Practice

A.879

Ensures that health plans can only deny payment for covered benefits after review by a physician or other health care professional licensed in New York State. In addition, the review must be done by a provider who is board certified in the same, or similar, specialty as the treatment under review.

Limiting Gas Powered Leaf Blower Use

A.5375/S.001113

Prohibits the use of gas powered leaf blowers from May 1 - September 30 each year to reduce air pollution and noise pollution.

Strengthening Medical Exemption Process

A.7838

An act to amend public health law to require the department of health to approve medical exemptions from immunization requirements. This is a bill from last year and needs to be reintroduced.

Continuous Enrollment Medicaid 0-3

Need bill drafted. The NYS AAP will work with the Chairs of the Senate & Assembly Health Committees.

The New York Health Act

We strongly support Universal Health Care for all New Yorkers.

