



## LEGISLATIVE & ADVOCACY UPDATE

New York State American Academy of Pediatrics (NYS AAP)  
A Coalition of AAP NY Chapters 1, 2 & 3

# *Legislative & Advocacy Update Report for the 2022 Session*

**JUNE 22, 2022**

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Pediatrician voices were heard loud and clear in this year's legislative session. Your calls, emails and visits made a difference for children and families in the budget and in the legislative process.

Despite the chaos of the soon to be released Supreme Court decision on Roe, and the senseless gun tragedies in Buffalo and at Robb Elementary School in Texas and the legislative emergencies they created, we were able to get some very good things done for the children and families of New York this legislative session.

Priority bills that your voices helped pass in a very crowded and very passionate legislative session include:

**Primary Care Investment, A.7230/S.6534**

Requires the state to create a work group to examine the dollars spent on health care and the percent of dollars on primary care. The work group will make recommendations on how better to spend the state's health care dollars on investments in primary care. Pediatrics has much to gain by participating in the work group and in the eventual investment recommendations.

**Cumulative Impact, S.1031-C/A.2103-C**

Addresses Environmental/Health Equity

Amends the environmental conservation law in relation to the location of environmental facilities. Once implemented, it will provide protection for the most vulnerable children and families across the state from the well-known and proven hazards of living near environmentally dangerous, sometimes even toxic sites. It will also create future protections by requiring a cumulative impact study prior to new potentially toxic sites being located in vulnerable areas already home to a number of existing environmentally challenging facilities.

**Runaway & Homeless Youth Consent A.9604/S.8937**

Allows runaway and homeless youth to consent to their own medical and mental health treatment. Currently, medical and mental health professionals across the state are confronted by young people who know they need help and want needed services, but who cannot get that consent from parents who have

either abused them, rejected them, or clearly indicated that their gender expression is not welcome in the biological family.

### **Corded Blinds in Day Care A.2150/S.06900**

Bans corded blinds in all childcare settings, other than home based care. This is a safety issue the falls under injury prevention initiatives.

### **Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Prevention Education A.07560/S.06267A**

The bill requires the Commissioner of Health to develop and distribute materials to educate those who are pregnant or may wish to become pregnant and work in childcare settings about the transmission, prevention, risks, symptoms and the effects CMV infection may have on the pregnant person and the infant. These materials are to be distributed and discussed by both child care providers and the pregnant person's obstetrician.

### **Post Partum Coverage for Undocumented People**

New York, through its legislative budget adds, provided coverage for undocumented pregnant people for a full year after birth.

### **Gun Violence Prevention**

Multiple bills were passed at the very end of session to address gun violence prevention. We are focusing on implementation of the newly expanded Extreme Risk Prevention Order (ERPO) training and implementation. Physicians have been added to list of those who can report. We supported all initiatives included in this end of session effort.

### **Reproductive Health Care Prevention**

Multiple bills were passed at the end of session to protect reproductive rights in New York and to protect those who access services and those who provide services. We, of course, supported all of the new legislative protections.

As many of you know, advocacy is always the long game. We have accomplished much this year, but we have much more to do going forward.

Some of the challenges awaiting are directly related to the unwinding of federal and state emergency funding and emergency programming connected to the COVID pandemic. I urge us all to get ready for another challenging year in protecting vital supportive programs for vulnerable children and families across our state.

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