



## Legislative Agenda 2015

### **4102/S.5612 Children's Safe Products Act**

This legislation effectively identifies and moves to ban toxic chemicals from children's products like toys, clothing and car seats. Today, in New York, there are more than 5,000 children's products that contain toxic chemicals available on store shelves. We need a statewide, comprehensive approach to address the toxic environment currently impacting children across the state. This legislation would create a priority list of toxic chemicals, require manufacturers to disclose use of those chemicals in their products for children and begin the process to phase out the use of those toxic chemicals in all children's products.

### **A.4958/S.121 Prohibiting Sexual Orientation Change Therapies**

Being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming. The major professional associations of mental health practitioners and researchers in the United States have recognized this fact for nearly 40 years. New York has a compelling interest in protecting the physical and psychological well-being of minors, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, and in protecting its minors against serious harms caused by sexual orientation change efforts. This legislation does that.

### **A.53/S.2991 Safe Storage of Firearms**

Safe storage requirements, when implemented with public education and law enforcement supports, have been proven to reduce children's deaths and injury from firearms. They are an important second level of gun violence prevention. This legislation clearly defines safe storage requirements and outlines consequences for not complying with those requirements.

### **A.791/S.4324 Requiring Meningococcal Immunizations**

This legislation would require immunization against meningococcal disease at entry to sixth grade or at the age a young person would enter sixth grade and a booster in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Catching students at these two milestone ages, while still in school, gives communities across the state a better chance to actually immunize this population before it scatters to college or other congregate living arrangements. It would also cover young people going off to summer camp as young campers or as counselors.

### **A.5062/S.3525 Single Payer Health Care Coverage**

Moving toward a single payer health insurance approach in New York could go a long way to create equity in health care. It could address health disparities caused by race, economics, education and cultural norms. Access to care would be universal. Quality of care would be unified and evaluation would be across a level playing field.

### **A.336/S.1157 Collective Bargaining For Physicians**

Due to the current imbalance of negotiating power in favor of the managed care plans, physicians are offered take-it-or-leave-it contracts by health plans that can significantly hamper their ability to provide



quality patient care. Providing a level playing field with collective negotiations will help improve health care. It will also create a more equitable partnership between health care service providers and large managed care insurers across the state. This legislation will have the ultimate effect of improving patient care and keeping more highly skilled physicians in New York State.

### **A.3356 Fair Payment for Immunization Purchase and Administration**

Pediatricians provide the public health infrastructure for New York State's childhood immunization program. Therefore, it is imperative that the state support pediatricians to continue to fully participate in immunization efforts by paying fairly for vaccines and for immunization administration. This legislation requires fair payment for vaccines and for vaccine administration based on the AAP business model that financially supports pediatric practice.

### **A.2320 Labeling for Sugar Sweetened Beverages**

New York parents have a right to know about the chronic health risks associated with soda and other sugary drink consumption. According to the most recent research, SSBs (sugar sweetened beverages) are the single largest source of added sugars in the American diet. Each extra soft drink consumed per day is associated with a 60 percent increased risk of overweight in children. The warning label proposed by this legislation would state: "Drinking beverages with added sugar contributes to obesity, diabetes, and tooth decay." This legislation will help educate and remind parents of the dangers of excessive sugar sweetened beverages.

### **Additional Issues**

#### **Coverage of Donor Breast Milk**

We are working with several legislators to create legislation to provide insurance coverage for donor breast milk for babies in the NICU when medically indicated. Currently, donor breast milk for preterm and other sick babies is poorly and unevenly covered. This creates an unacceptable socio-economic divide. Only those families who can afford it can secure optimal care for their very sick babies. Our proposed legislation would address this glaring inequity.

#### **Centers for Excellence in Environmental Health**

We will continue to work on maintaining state support for the current Centers. Their funding was not included in the Governor's budget. We will also advocate for growth for Centers going forward.

**For more information contact:**

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