

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



NYS AAP



2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The New York State American Academy of Pediatrics (NYS AAP) represents over 4,000 pediatricians across New York State working to support and enhance children's health and well-being.

Raise the Minimum Wage

Raise the minimum wage for all low income wage earners. Parents who work full time should be able to take care of their families. Our youngest children should not be the poorest New Yorkers.

Minimum Wage was raised by Executive Action from the Governor and by the Wage Board for identified groups of workers. **This year we need passage of universal and permanent legislation.**

Paid Family Leave

Paid family leave would mean that families don't have to decide between taking care of a sick child or parent and losing financial stability. Families should not have to choose between caring for someone they love or becoming homeless.

Paid family leave is in place now in NYC. **We are not taking a position on a particular bill; there are at least three. But we are strongly supportive of the approach taken by the Assembly bill on this issue.**

Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility to 18

We support raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18. **Again, the Governor moved to address this issue by Executive Order. But legislation still**

needs to be passed this year to make the change permanent.

Gun Safe Storage

A.53/S.2991

We can and must pass gun safe storage legislation this year. The sooner we pass legislation, the

sooner we can protect children from unsecured firearms in our homes and communities.

The Children's Safe Products Act

A.5612/S.4102

We must start the process to identify and ban toxic chemicals from children's toys, clothing,

car seats and strollers.

Prohibiting Sexual Orientation Change Therapies

A.4958/S.121

Being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender is not a disease. A young person doesn't need to be "changed." This legislation will protect minors from dangerous "sexual change therapies."

Again, the Governor addressed this issue through an Executive Order, but legislation would provide more permanent protection for LGBTQ young people across the state.

HPV/Minors Consent

A.1528/S.2712

This legislation specifies that qualified health care practitioners are authorized to provide health care for treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted infections to minors who are capable of giving informed consent without the consent of

a parent or guardian. The legislation would provide an important clarification to public health law that such providers are authorized to administer the vaccine that protects young people from the Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

Collective Negotiation

A.336/S.1157

Collective Negotiation remains a key issue for many of our members. This legislation would create a level playing field by allowing practices

to collectively bargain with insurance companies for fair payments.

Fair Payment for Vaccine and Vaccine Administration

A.3356

Fair Payment for Vaccine and Vaccine Administration remains an active concern that requires legislative redress. Practices continue to

struggle for reasonable payment for vaccines and vaccine storage, record keeping, and federal and state administrative requirements.

Sweetened Beverage Labeling

A.2320

This legislation would require all sugar sweetened beverages to be labeled so that parents and other consumers could be fully informed about the sugar and calorie content of sweetened beverages.

We believe that parents will make better choices for their families if they see the sugar content of many beverages.

Repeal Religious Exemption to Immunization

A.8329/S.06017

Passage of this legislation would make New York State a medical exemption only state, similar to California. We fully support this legislation. We need to use this time to organize to help move this

forward for 2017. We want more legislators to understand why this is important to the work we do in pediatrics.

Require Flu Immunization for Infant and Child Care Attendance A.8633

Infant and child care settings are fertile breeding grounds for flu. Requiring immunization will significantly reduce transmission of flu in this very vulnerable population. Parents of young children will get them immunized if vaccination becomes a

requirement for participation. The NYS AAP fully supports this legislation, but further work needs to be done to get legislative and administrative support.

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