



2017 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

Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility to 18

A.04876/A.04935

As pediatricians, we know that the brains of young people 16-21 are still developing. Most young people simply do not have the adult capacity to truly understand the potential severe consequences of their often impulsive actions.

It is past time for New York to join the rest of the nation in recognizing that 16 year olds are not adults and should not be treated as adults by our criminal justice system.

Last year the Governor addressed part of this issue

with an Executive Order which eliminated the possibility of housing adolescents younger than 18 in adult correctional facilities. But the Executive Order did not create alternative sentencing in a Juvenile Court. This year the Governor put money in the budget to create alternative court adjudication options for young people and legislation to remove young people under the age of 18 from the adult correctional system. This is the year that we can and will pass legislation to create an alternative sentencing and alternative correction system for young people caught up in the criminal justice system.

Standing Orders for Healthy Newborns

Being born is not an illness. The antiquated, unnecessary prohibition regarding Standing Orders at healthy newborn birth serves no medical purpose. We propose the elimination of the prohibition, which is unique to New York State and is not evidence based, but rather a historic anomaly. We propose the creation of Standing Orders which are evidence based, and established by pediatric standards. The Department of Pediatrics and each Hospital’s Medical Director or other hospital administrative structure

should be empowered to design and implement Standing Orders for Healthy Newborns that adhere to established pediatric medical standards and reflect the needs of each institution.

We are currently working with the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Health Committees and other key legislators to create legislation to implement this change.



Standing Orders for Non-Dose Over the Counter Medications in School

New York stands alone in requiring a physician to sign off on the administration of non-dose specific, over the counter medication, like sunscreen, in the school setting. It makes perfect sense to require a parent to sign a permission form for their child to be administered non-dose specific over the counter products. It makes no sense to require a physician's signature or to require patient specific orders. Eliminating this cumbersome and non evidence based requirement will reduce burdens on both the medical

and school system staff. And, it will not in any way compromise the health of children.

We are proposing legislation to create Standing Orders for the administration of non-dose specific over the counter medication/products as needed in the school setting.

Again, we are working with key legislative leaders to move this concept forward to a legislative initiative.

Gun Safe Storage Legislation

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. Legislating Gun Safe Storage has been a challenge in New York where we already

have significant gun control legislation. But Gun Safe Storage is a core child safety issue and we will continue to push for the legislature to move specific legislation forward to help protect the children of New York.

Support the Just Green Agenda for Children and Families

We support legislation in an omni bill, like the Child Safe Product Act or single legislative initiatives, that will start the process to identify and ban toxic chemicals from children's toys, clothing, car seats & strollers.

We support legislation that will test and maintain safe water and safe child care and school environments. We look forward to working with bi-partisan sponsors of child focused environmental legislation this session.

Prohibiting Sexual Orientation Change Therapies

A.3977/S.263

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.

Health Insurance Coverage for Donor Breast Milk

We support either free standing legislation or focused budget language that would require insurance coverage for medically necessary donor breast milk for our tiniest, sickest and most vulnerable newborns

whose mothers cannot provide the needed breast milk. We look forward to working with the legislature to craft the most effective response to this most critical medical intervention.

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Collective Negotiation

A.4472

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.4061

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 Tax

A.03353

This legislation would require all sugar sweetened beverages to be taxed. The tax would go into a fund

to support programs for health and anti-obesity programs for children.

Repeal Religious Exemption to Immunization

A.1810/S.52

Passage of this legislation would make New York State a medical exemption only state, similar to California. Although we fully support this legislation, there are few co-sponsors and little chance that it will pass this session. But, we need to use this session to educate legislators about the high value and scientific safety of immunizations. We also need to explain to legislators

why immunization exemptions are potentially dangerous. It is imperative that we all talk to our Assembly people and our Senators about this bill. We want more legislators to understand why this is important to the work we do in pediatrics, and why it is important to help protect the children across NY from preventable but serious communicable diseases.

Require Flu Immunization for Infant and Child Care Attendance

A.1230

Passage of this legislation would protect children in infant and child care across the state. Infant and child care programs are fertile breeding grounds for flu. Also, flu is most dangerous for infants and very young children.

Right now, because it is not mandated, many parents delay or forget to get the immunization, and this is complicated by the fact that children need to be immunized against flu each year.

Requiring immunization will significantly reduce transmission of flu in this very vulnerable population. Parents of young children will get them immunized if vaccination is a requirement for participation in care.

The NYS AAP fully supports this legislation, but further work needs to be done to get legislative and administrative support. We will continue to work on moving this forward in this legislative session.

