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## **New York State American Academy of Pediatrics, District II**

### **Position on Early Intervention Reforms**

New York State AAP supports the ongoing reforms to New York State's Early Intervention program with caution. Our position has been and continues to be that implementation of reforms going forward must include assurances that no child's access to needed early intervention services will be delayed or denied due to reform.

Economically and culturally challenged communities must be assured of continued access to quality services during this time of change.

The reforms to the New York State's Early Intervention Program have the potential to strengthen the program and ensure that covered services are paid for by insurers when appropriate. The reforms also protect children and families, making sure that they have access to needed services no matter who is identified as the payer.

We support all initiatives that will help create a high quality, level playing field so that parents will be assured easy access to the quality services to which they and their children are entitled. We also support the design of a quality assessment and outcomes based process for services to high need at risk infants and toddlers.

NYSAAP stands ready to work with the State Department of Health, county health departments, early intervention providers, insurers and the families and infants and toddlers we all share to design, implement and support accessible, high quality, family based, early intervention services that are part of the pediatric health and wellness services integral to a child's "Medical Home." We believe that pediatricians have a key role to play in the assessment of the need for and the provision of appropriate developmental services to high risk infants and toddlers.

NYSAAP is committed to assuring that high quality, accessible and appropriate early intervention services are available to children who need them. We believe that the current system can be improved. Continued application of evidenced based and high value services to developmentally challenged infants and toddlers can and should be a priority for the state.

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