



AAP Headquarters

141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1019
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

Reply to

Department of Federal Affairs

Homer Building, Suite 400 N
601 13th St NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202/347-8600
Fax: 202/393-6137
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

Executive Committee

President

Sandra G. Hassink, MD, FAAP

President-Elect

Benard P. Dreyer, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

James M. Perrin, MD, FAAP

Executive Director/CEO

Errol R. Alden, MD, FAAP

Board of Directors

District I

Carole E. Allen, MD, FAAP
Arlington, MA

District II

Danielle Laraque, MD, FAAP
Brooklyn, NY

District III

David I. Bromberg, MD, FAAP
Frederick, MD

District IV

Jane M. Foy, MD, FAAP
Winston Salem, NC

District V

Richard H. Tuck, MD, FAAP
Zanesville, OH

District VI

Pamela K. Shaw, MD, FAAP
Kansas City, KS

District VII

Anthony D. Johnson, MD, FAAP
Little Rock, AR

District VIII

Kyle Yasuda, MD, FAAP
Seattle, WA

District IX

Stuart A. Cohen, MD, MPH, FAAP
San Diego, CA

District X

Sara H. Goza, MD, FAAP
Fayetteville, GA

March 24, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the 63,000 AAP member primary care pediatricians, pediatric subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists who are dedicated to the health of all children, thank you for your tireless efforts to provide continued funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), extend the life of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program, and eradicate Medicare's Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). Your work could not be more timely.

CHIP is critical to the health of children, and we applaud your actions to move an extension of the program now, before the artificial September 30 funding deadline is reached. While controversy surrounds the length of the extension of the program, all can agree that States, families and children need predictability about CHIP and its future. As you know, five states have already ended their legislative sessions, including New Mexico, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming. By next month's end, fourteen more states (Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Washington) will have concluded their regular sessions. Without an indication of funding levels from the federal government – regardless of whether the program is extended for two or four years – States will be forced to issue disenrollment notices and families may lose access to their child's medical homes.

Federal support for the MIECHV program also ends Tuesday, March 31. The MIECHV program is critical for the health of children and their families. MIECHV supports evidence-based programs serving pregnant women and families, helping at-risk parents of children from birth to kindergarten entry access resources and supports for raising children who are physically, socially and emotionally healthy and ready to learn. The health of the next generation is enriched by this program.

In the context of the SGR, permanent repeal is long overdue. More than 14,000 children who suffer from End Stage Renal Disease are enrolled in the Medicare program. Beyond these children, the SGR has important downstream impacts outside of Medicare, exacerbating access issues in Medicaid, CHIP and private insurance. It is time for this distraction to be gone.

CHIP, MIECHV and Medicare's SGR will all be addressed by your legislation. We urge House action posthaste so that the Senate can work its will and the President can quickly enact a law to address issues that are so critical to the lives of children across the United States. Thank you for all you do for children, families and their pediatricians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra G. Hassink, MD, FAAP". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sandra G. Hassink
President

SGH:rh