



The Massachusetts Chapter

Executive Director

Cathleen Haggerty
860 Winter Street
Waltham, MA 02454
781-895-9852
Fax 781-895-9855
chaggerty@mcaap.org

Immediate Past President

Gregory Hagan, M.D., FAAP
Cambridge, MA
617-665-3600
gnhagan@challiance.org

President

John O'Reilly, M.D., FAAP
Springfield, MA
413-794-7448
joreilly@mcaap.org

Vice President

Michael McManus, M.D., MPH,
FAAP
Boston, MA
617-355-6000
mmcmanus@mcaap.org

Treasurer

Dmitry Dukhovny, M.D., FAAP
Boston, MA
617-355-6000
ddukhovny@mcaap.org

Secretary

Kathryn Brigham, M.D., FAAP
Boston, MA
617-355-6000
kbrigham@mcaap.org

District Representatives

District 1

Fernando Catalina, M.D., FAAP

District 2

Safdar Medina, M.D., FAAP

District 3

Lloyd Fisher, M.D., FAAP

District 4

Elizabeth Goodman, M.D., FAAP

District 5

Sheila Morehouse, M.D., FAAP

District 6

Brittany Boulanger, M.D., FAAP

District 7

Umbereen Nehal, M.D., MPH, FAAP

District 8

Allison Brown, M.D., FAAP

District 9

Walter Rok, M.D., FAAP

November 6, 2013

**To the Honorable Chairmen and Members
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing**

Re: H. 1023 & S. 554, An Act to Protect Health Care Reform Funding

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the 1,800 members of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP) in strong support of H. 1023 & S. 554, which would create a Medicaid and Health Care Reform (FMAR) Trust Fund.

As we expand Medicaid coverage and health insurance subsidies for low-income people, including children, as a result of additional federal funds flowing into the Commonwealth as part of implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it is critical that we protect and preserve these funds for the purposes Congress intended. We must guard against squandering these funds on unrelated programs or budgetary needs.

Expanding Medicaid coverage brings with it the responsibility to fund the expansion for the coming years. Creating a Trust Fund will help the state preserve the funding and ensure that the Medicaid program in Massachusetts can meet its responsibilities in an expanded capacity as intended under the ACA. If we don't reserve these funds to meet our obligations, we are inviting a financial and budgetary crisis.

The MCAAP would urge the legislature to pass H.1022 & S.554, which will create a predictable and transparent mechanism to sustain and advance our collective efforts to ensure universal access to health care.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John O'Reilly".

John O'Reilly, M.D., FAAP

President, the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Executive Director**

Cathleen Haggerty
860 Winter Street
Waltham, MA 02454
781-895-9852
Fax 781-895-9855
chaggerty@mcaap.org

Immediate Past President

John O'Reilly, M.D., FAAP
Springfield, MA
413-794-7448
joreilly@mcaap.org

President

Michael McManus, M.D., MPH,
FAAP
Boston, MA
617-355-6000
mmcmanus@mcaap.org

Vice President

DeWayne Pursley, M.D., MPH,
FAAP
Boston, MA
617-667-8000
dpursley@mcaap.org

Treasurer

Lloyd Fisher, M.D., FAAP
Worcester, MA
508-368-7887
lfisher@mcaap.org

Secretary

Kathryn Brigham, M.D., FAAP
Boston, MA
617-355-6000
kbrigham@mcaap.org

District Representatives**District 1**

Peter Kenny, M.D., FAAP

District 2

Safdar Medina, M.D., FAAP

District 3

Fernando Catalina, M.D., Ph.D.,
FAAP

District 4

Elizabeth Goodman, M.D., FAAP

District 5

Sheila Morehouse, M.D., FAAP

District 6

Brittany Boulanger, M.D., FAAP

District 7

Umbereen Nehal, M.D., MPH, FAAP

District 8

E. James Gruver, M.D., FAAP

District 9

Walter Rok, M.D., FAAP

Massachusetts Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics Statement Regarding Narrow Health Care Networks

The health care needs of children are different from those of adults. Often, they require specialized training and resources that are unavailable in care sites that primarily serve adults. The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP) represents nearly two thousand pediatricians from across the Commonwealth and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children. It has come to our attention that changes in the Massachusetts health insurance market are beginning to interfere with pediatric care. Our members report that existing medical relationships are being disrupted and families are reporting new difficulties in finding pediatricians within their communities. Largely, these difficulties arise from increasing restrictions placed upon the provider networks of insurers. As these restrictive networks proliferate, we believe that they threaten to offer inadequate services and inadequate care for children.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that "Narrow Networks pose a unique threat to access to appropriate care for children". The Affordable Care Act requires that "Essential Community Providers" (ECPs) be immediately available in all plans such that there "not be unreasonable delay" in care. This requires "sufficient number and geographic distribution" of ECPs in each plan in order that children, even in low-income or medically underserved populations, be well provided for. To accomplish this, many states have implemented "Any Willing Provider" mandates to fill the gaps left by limited physician networks. Here in Massachusetts, our groundbreaking Chapter 224 legislation anticipated potential dislocations with cost control and therefore specifically added responsibilities "to promote the health and well being of children, including, but not limited to, *improving access to pediatric care.*"

At MCAAP, we believe that certain new and very narrow provider networks now operate contrary to the goals of maintaining and improving access to pediatric care. We are concerned that similar networks will proliferate as cost-cutting intensifies and that rapid uncontrolled change will irreparably damage Massachusetts' enviable system of pediatric care. For this reason the MCAAP respectfully calls for the evaluation and analysis of all evolving provider networks with specific attention to ensuring access to pediatric care. This includes access to trained and board-certified pediatricians, pediatric specialists, and pediatric facilities. For many families, such an analysis cannot come soon enough. Our membership therefore stands ready to assist in all possible ways.