Over the past year the Chapter has been active on Beacon Hill advocating on behalf of children and pediatricians. Because this is an election year, the formal session of the Legislature ended on July 31, 2018. The Legislature will continue to meet in informal sessions for the rest of the year and can take up bills by unanimous consent (no legislator objects). The following is a summary of the Chapter’s Legislative activities for the year. The Chapter will continue to monitor the Legislature during the informal session.

**Bills supported by the Chapter that passed and signed into law:**

1. **Tobacco.** Chapter 157 of the Acts of 2018 “An Act Modernizing Tobacco Control and Protecting the Health of Minors” will (i) raise the age of sale of tobacco products across the Commonwealth from 18 to 21; (ii) Regulate E-cigarettes and treat these products as tobacco products; (iii) Ban the sale of nicotine liquids and gels without child resistant packaging; and (iv) Ban the sale of all tobacco and nicotine delivery products in pharmacies and health care institutions.

2. **Red Flag or Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO).** Chapter 123 of the Acts of 2018 “An Act Temporarily Preventing Firearm Access for Dangerous or Suicidal Individuals” would allow family or household members, recognizing a loved one is in crisis, to initiate a civil judicial process through an Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) that allows a court to temporarily prohibit the purchase and possession of firearms and require the removal of any firearms currently possessed while the order is in effect; thus removing the means of inflicting injury or death to self or others by use of firearms. Chapter supports. Passed House and amended version passed Senate. House and senate need to reconcile.

**Status of bills pending before the Legislature at the end of the formal session on July 31, 2018.**

1. **Healthy Youth.** S2128, “An Act Relative to Healthy Youth” would require school districts that choose to offer sexual health education to provide age-appropriate, medically accurate information, including information on both abstinence and contraception; relationship and communications skills to form healthy, respectful relationships; age appropriate information about gender identity and sexual orientation. The bill maintains existing state law that allows parents to remove their children from sex education programs. Chapter supports. S.2128 passed the Senate and is pending before the House Ways & Means Committee.

2. **Lead Poisoning.** H.1626 “An Act Relative to Tax Credits for the Containment or Abatement of Lead Paint and Further Protecting Children from Lead Paint Containment,” decreases the action level of lead from 25 micrograms per deciliter to 10; doubles tax credit for owners who de-lead their housing units; and increases penalties for housing discrimination. Chapter supports. Passed the Senate and pending in House Ways & Means.
3. **Conversion Therapy.** H.1190 “An Act Relative to Abusive Practices to Change Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Minors” would prohibit conversion or reparative therapy. Such alleged “therapy” would seek to change a minor’s sexual orientation or gender identity. It has no validation in science, and poses significant risk to children and their families. Chapter supports. Bill passed House and Senate passed a redraft of the bill on July 31. Insufficient time for House to take up Senate version of bill. Pending before House 3rd reading. Unlikely to emerge in House during informal session due to opposition.

4. **Nurse Practitioners - Independent Practice.** The Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners filed legislation (S.1257 & H. 2451) to grant nurse practitioners independent practice by eliminating the statutory provision requiring NPs to practice under the supervision of a physician for the purposes of ordering tests and therapeutics and prescribing medications. It would also remove the Board of Registration in Medicine from its current role in jointly regulating with the Board of Registration in Nursing the scope of practice of NPs. The scope of practice of NPs would be left solely with the Nursing Board. Moreover, the bill would expand their scope of practice by allowing NPs to interpret tests. Chapter opposes. Bills are pending before SW&M Committee. Separately the Senate passed in November 2017 a health care reform bill (S.2211) which includes a provision allowing nurse practitioners to practice independently after a 2 year period of supervision by a physician or independent NP. House passed health care reform bill (H.4639) that contained provision for study by Health Policy Commission of scope bills. Conference committee appointed to reconcile differences in bills, but unable to reach consensus by July 31 end of formal session and all scope issues in the reform bills are dead for session.

5. **Epinephrine Supplies in Schools.** H.2036 “An Act Relative to Emergency Stock Supply of Epinephrine in Schools,” requires each public school maintain a stock supply of non-patient specific epinephrine available to all students, including students with individualized health care plans prescribing epinephrine injections, to be administered in the event of an anaphylactic emergency. The stock epinephrine would be stored in an easily accessible unlocked location. The number and type of epinephrine auto-injectors required would be based on school population, and the individuals authorized to administer epinephrine would meet certain training requirements for such administration, including the use of epinephrine dose calculation devices. The program would be administered by DPH and funded by assessment on health insurers. Chapter supports. Bill redrafted (H.4130) and reported favorably by Education Committee and referred to Health Care Financing Committee, which sent it to a study.

6. **Immunization Registry Opt-out.** H.1179 “An Act Relative to the Computerized Immunization Registry” would allow parents of children who receive vaccinations to opt out of having their names and immunization information on the state’s immunization registry. Chapter opposes. Bill sent to a study.

7. **Diet Pills and Muscle-building Supplements.** H.1195 “An Act Protecting Children from Harmful Diet Pills and Muscle-building Supplements” would ban the sale of over counter diet pills or diet supplements for weight loss to anyone under 18 years of age. Over counter diet pills and diet supplements for weight loss or muscle building “includes, but not limited to, thermogens, which are substances that produce heat in the body and promote calorie burning, lipotropics, which are compounds that break down fat during body metabolism, hormones, including hormone modulators and hormone mimetics, appetite supplements, or ingredients deemed adulterated under 21 USCA sec. 342.” Chapter supports. Public Health Committee sent to study.

8. **Sugary Drinks.** S.1220 “An Act to Protect Youth from the Health Risks of Sugary Drinks,” prohibits marketing of sugary drinks in schools. The bill also requires labeling on certain sugary drink
advertisements. Anyone who advertises sugary drinks must include a Warning: Drinking beverages with added sugar(s) contributes to obesity, diabetes, and tooth decay.” Not required on drink containers…limited to advertisements. A limitation on sugary beverages in children’s meals at chain restaurants would be imposed. Chain restaurants can only sell kid’s meal if the default beverage is: water, sparkling water or flavored water with no added natural or artificial sweeteners; nonfat or 1% milk or non-dairy alternative containing no more than 130 calories per container; or 100% juice, with no added sweeteners, in a serving size of no more than 8 oz. Chapter supports. Pending in Senate Ways & Means Committee.


10. Safe Alternative to Toxic Chemicals. S. 474 “An Act for a Competitive Economy through Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals,” would establish a process to identify safe household chemicals and encourage their use by banning sale of unsafe chemicals. Chapter supports. Pending before Senate W&M.

11. Detergent Poisoning. H.1145 “An Act to Protect Children from Detergent Poisoning,” would regulate liquid detergent packets to make them less attractive to children; require warning labels; and ban sale of liquid detergent packets unless it meets requirements of Mass law as required under this bill. Chapter supports. Bill sent to a study.

12. Skilled care for Fragile Children. S.1273 “An Act Requiring Protection for the Continuous Skilled Care of Fragile Children,” would establish a general “Bill of Right” for every child or adult who is eligible for continuous skilled nursing program, with a medically complex health condition, or special health needs requiring specialized care in all settings shall be guaranteed access to high quality care that is appropriate to the acuity of the patient. MassHealth would be required to promulgate rules to provide such care. Chapter supports. Passed Senate. Pending before House Ways & Means.

13. Safe Communities Act. S.1305 “An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents,” would prevent local police departments from enforcing immigration enforcement.
   • The bill would prohibit a law enforcement agency from inquiring about a person’s immigration status unless info is required by law or is an element in a crime for which the person is being investigated.
   • No police officer can arrest or detain a person solely for immigration enforcement program; exception is if probable cause that the person has committed a crime
   • Police can’t continue to detain a person solely for immigration purpose once the person is released from local custody.
Chapter is monitoring the legislation. Bill sent to a study order that is pending before Senate Rules Committee.