

## **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**

*Protect and improve the physical, mental, and social health of children and young adults*

**Organization Description:** Founded in 1930 to emphasize the difference between adult and child care in the medical community, AAP is now a society of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialties, and pediatric surgical specialists. AAP works with its American and Canadian chapters to run programs, educate the community, and advocate for better health care coverage for children and young adults.

**Proposal Summary:** AAP does not have a specific long-term health reform agenda; however, it is very active in advocating for children's rights in accessing health care coverage at the state and federal levels. Some of the key issues it supports include protecting and expanding Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funding, improving mental health services for children, and increasing funding to improve the vaccine delivery system and cover more child immunizations. AAP advances its public policy positions through state and federal advocacy efforts and by publishing an academic journal.

- **Coverage:** AAP advocates that children, and ultimately everyone, should have health insurance regardless of income and that health insurance should be fully portable to provide continuous coverage. AAP is a partner of the Campaign for Children's Health Care, which is a consortium of health care organizations working to coordinate public education efforts across the country to demonstrate the importance of high-quality, affordable health insurance for all children in America. AAP believes that all children should have access to primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical specialists, and hospitals with pediatric expertise. AAP advocates for health plan reimbursement levels that promote unrestricted access to health services for children.
- **Wellness and Prevention:** AAP advocates for some prevention issues, including promoting immunizations for children. It conducts research on the benefits of timely and comprehensive immunizations for children and provides recommendations on covering vaccines that children should be receiving.

**Proposal Date:** 2007

Sources: AAP Endorsed Principles on Access, [http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/Principles\\_Access.htm](http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/Principles_Access.htm);  
<http://www.aap.org/advocacy.html>.