

From the President

Letter from the AAP President

December 17, 2025

Dear colleagues:

I write today to share two important developments regarding the AAP and our mission to advance the health and wellbeing of all children.

You may have seen news reports that today several federal grants from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) were abruptly terminated. These federal funds supported AAP child health initiatives, including reducing sudden unexplained infant death, expanding access to health care in rural areas, supporting children with birth defects, early autism screening and identification, preventing fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, early hearing screening and more.

As our CEO Mark Del Monte, JD said, “The sudden withdrawal of these funds will directly impact and potentially harm infants, children, youth, and their families in communities across the United States.” **I couldn’t agree more.**

While we are still learning more about the scope and rationale of these decisions, the AAP and our members who work on these child health programs should be nothing but proud of all they do to advance our mission and support child health. This reporting from the [Washington Post](#) provides additional coverage. We are exploring all options related to this decision including legal strategies. I will have more to share with you soon.

Also today, [AAP leaders were in a federal courthouse defending vaccine policy](#) in a hearing on our case, *American Academy of Pediatrics v. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.* This was a procedural hearing necessary to move the case forward. Earlier this year the AAP sued HHS and Secretary Kennedy for unilaterally altering the childhood immunization schedule without evidence and firing the 17 members of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and replacing them with individuals who espouse anti-vaccine views. We expect a ruling on the government’s motion to dismiss the case in early January.

Our members in primary care, subspecialty care and even surgery are already seeing the harms these actions are having on child health. With measles surging, flu and respiratory virus season upon us, and with holiday travel leading to more exposures for babies too young to be immunized, families deserve clarity.

As we chart a path forward, please consider reaching out to your members of Congress and urge them to protect the country’s vaccine infrastructure and access to vaccines. Visit [federaladvocacy.aap.org](#) (AAP login required) and select “Tell Congress to Protect Access to Vaccines for Children and Families” for an email to guide your outreach.

This has been a tumultuous year for child health, but I am continuously inspired by the collective resilience of pediatricians in the face of these challenges and setbacks. From the clinic to the courthouse, the AAP will do everything in its power to keep children healthy and thriving.

Thank you for persevering, and please continue showing up for one another. We’re all in this together.

Sue Kressly, MD, FAAP

President

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