

A Report From Sacramento - Advocacy Day 2024

After a year of working for the AAP-CA2, I've learned that nailing down the primary mission of this organization isn't so simple. Like the human body, the chapter has many different parts. The chapter provides continuing education materials, social connections in a sometimes isolating industry, and even activist opportunities. However, one of the areas that can often be lost in the shuffle of amazing accomplishments the chapter strives to achieve, is its dedication to advocacy. Though we're an organization focused on helping pediatricians, at the end of the day, the true goal for everyone involved is securing a better future for children. At Advocacy Day 2024, this aspect of the chapter's mission crystallized for me.

I, along with dozens of pediatricians and residents from across California, had the opportunity to provide a voice to those who can't speak for themselves. During the day, we spent invaluable time meeting with legislators at the forefront of the fight for a better future for kids. The legislation we supported this year covered a wide variety of topics, from a bill removing red tape for those in-need of donor human milk, to another bill creating common sense restrictions on social media, and even legislation ensuring schools protect students from excessive heat on the playground. Talking about these bills gave me wonderful new insight into just how far reaching our impact as a chapter can be. It's one thing to simply discuss legislation amongst our membership, but it was a completely different and rewarding experience advocating for it to those at the highest levels of state government.

It's rare in this world to feel as if you've had an impact in just one day. However, as I flew back home after a long afternoon championing children's rights in the state capitol, it felt like everyone involved in Advocacy Day made a difference. It was truly impactful to see all of

our efforts come together as we worked to better the lives of those we serve. And at the end of the day, that is what the AAP-CA2 is all about.

- Will Barboza (AAP-CA2 Administrative Assistant)