FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Launches the first Anti-Trafficking Task Force
with the Support of the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking

East Windsor - April 28, 2022 - The New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (NJAAP) is launching a new Anti-Trafficking Task Force aimed at fighting and preventing child trafficking in the state of New Jersey. The Task Force is an initiative of the NJAAP Adolescent Health Committee. Many thanks to the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking - the largest survivor-informed anti-trafficking organization in the state - for providing us with seed money to begin our work. The Coalition agreed to serve as our first sponsor of this Task Force, which will allow us to ensure that our work includes a diverse group of individuals with lived experiences.

NJAAP is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children in the state of New Jersey. Co-chairs Gina Cavallo and Nicole Leopardi have been working diligently to bring together a group of diverse, engaged, and passionate individuals to contribute their knowledge and expertise to this important work. One of the major goals of our recruitment efforts is ensuring that the Task Force is both survivor-led and survivor-informed. Individuals with lived experiences will have meaningful input during all layers and stages of this work. Embracing this ideology will elevate this Task Force from one that delivers a message of change to one that is the change. We believe that effectively promoting and role-modeling a culture of empowerment for survivors is the right way, the only way, to make a significant impact.

This initial sponsorship will help to launch our efforts to support survivors' voices and ensure they are at the table during all phases of our work, making critical contributions to children's health in the state and expanding our knowledge in this area.

Interested in sponsoring this work? Contact Aldina M. Hovde at antitraffickingtaskforce@njaap.org to learn more about potential sponsorship opportunities.

For more information about the Anti-Trafficking Task Force, please visit https://njaap.org/anti-trafficking/ or call 609-842-0014 x 123.

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Founded in 1950, the NJAAP is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all children and families in the state of New Jersey. The Adolescent Health Committee addresses important issues related to adolescents, including mental health, suicide prevention, trauma/toxic stress, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, school start times, and awareness/prevention of human trafficking.

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