



# American Academy of Pediatrics GLOBAL HEALTH ADVOCACY IN ACTION

The American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) commitment to improving the lives of children goes beyond our borders. AAP staff and members advocate directly to the U.S. government and globally through international organizations like the United Nations (UN) and its public health agency, the World Health Organization (WHO), for policies and programs that support all children to reach their full potential.

The Washington, DC office of the AAP works with Congress, the Administration, and the judicial system to advocate for a wide range of child health topics including health care access & coverage, immigrant child health, gun violence prevention, tobacco & e-cigarettes, vaccines, and child nutrition. The AAP complements its domestic efforts by advocating for children across multiple child health and development issues globally.

## GLOBAL CHILD HEALTH PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK



**Early Childhood Development**



**Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health**



**Ending Violence Against Children**



**Non-Communicable Diseases**



**Global Health Security**



**Nutrition**



**Immunization Systems Strengthening**

## How We Advocate

The AAP elevates pediatric voices by directly advocating with U.S. Congress, the Administration, and the UN to promote programs and policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all children everywhere.

Pediatricians are natural advocates for child health. The AAP supports its members to understand the federal legislative process, acquire skills and techniques to successfully impact Congress, and effectively engage media to amplify advocacy efforts.



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## INCREASE FUNDING FOR GLOBAL CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS WITHIN THE U.S. FOREIGN AID BUDGET

In partnership with other global and child health organizations, the AAP advocates for increased funding for global health with the Administration and Congress. Each year during Congressional Appropriations, the AAP advocates in both the House and Senate on global health funding in U.S. foreign aid. The AAP prioritizes funding for accounts impacting young children and their families, including maternal and child health, global immunization programs focused on measles and polio eradication, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, nutrition, global health security, and UNICEF.

The AAP does much of its advocacy with the U.S. government in coalition with other global health organizations and plays a lead role in many coalitions, roundtables, and task forces including:

- **Thrive Coalition (Co-chair)**
- **MNCH Roundtable (Steering committee)**
- **Multilateral Roundtable**
- **Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC) Task Force**
- **Global Health Security Roundtable**
- **NCD Roundtable**
- **NCD Alliance**
- **Taskforce on Women & NCDs**
- **Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health**
- **Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development Advocacy and Implementation Working Groups**
- **Civil Society Working Group on Polio Transition/Integration**
- **U.S. Coalition for the Eradication of Polio**
- **Child Health Task Force**

## SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT PROMOTES GLOBAL CHILD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The AAP advocates for legislation that improves policies and programs related to global child health and well-being, working through coalitions to integrate input into draft legislation, secure co-sponsors, and support Congressional allies to shepherd bills through committee and on to the Senate and House floor. The AAP is a lead supporter of the Global Child Thrive Act (H.R. 4864/S. 2715), a bipartisan bill that directs the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to integrate early childhood development interventions into current foreign assistance programs serving young children and their families. Additionally, the AAP endorsed the following legislation in 2019 – 2020:

Global Health Security Act (H.R. 2166) which mandates a pandemic response team within the National Security Council.

Support United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Act (H.R.4722) which authorizes U.S. funding for UNFPA for five fiscal years.

House and Senate Resolutions to End Violence Against Children Globally (H. Res. 230/S. Res. 112) which call for the U.S. government to develop and implement a coordinated strategy based on evidence-based frameworks to reduce violence against children such as INSPIRE.

House and Senate Resolutions supporting Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (H. Res. 861/S. Res. 511) which call for continued U.S. government support of the Alliance ahead of its June 2020 replenishment

Global Health Security and Diplomacy Act of 2020 (S. 3829) to better detect, deter, and contain infectious disease outbreaks overseas before they become global pandemics

WHO Senate Resolution (S. Res. 653) expressing disapproval of the U.S. withdrawal from the WHO.



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## PRIORITIZE CHILD HEALTH ISSUES ON THE WORLD STAGE

The AAP directly advocates to the UN and the WHO, through global working groups and annual convenings, to ensure child health issues are prioritized in the larger global health agenda. The AAP actively engages with various global technical and advocacy working groups on a variety of child health issues including NCDs, sustainable health equity, early childhood development, and adolescent health and wellbeing. Additionally, the AAP regularly partners with national pediatric societies to bolster child health advocacy on the local, regional, and global stages. Through participation in the annual World Health Assembly, United Nations General Assembly, and High-Level Meetings on critical health issues, the AAP works to ensure the needs of children are prioritized in global outcome documents, political resolutions, and global financing.



**The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a collection of 17 global goals designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, expire in less than a decade. The Academy urges governments, civil society (including pediatric societies), and the private sector to work together to reach global and national targets on child health.**



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