STATE/FEDERAL UPDATE AND ADVOCACY

DENNIS COOLEY MD, FAAP
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ACCESS

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AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

- Increased Access
  - Marketplace
  - Expansion Medicaid
- Essential Health Benefits
- Dealt with pre-existing conditions
- Coverage to age 26
- Taxes on wealthy
US UNINSURED RATES

HISTORIC RATE OF INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN

Figure 1. Rate of Uninsured Children, 2008-2015

* Change is significant at the 90% confidence level. 2013 was the only year that did not show a significant one-year decline in the national rate of uninsured children. The Census began collecting data for the health insurance series in 2008, therefore there is no significance available for 2008.
REPEAL AND REPLACE

23 million lose coverage
Medicaid block grants
Loosen Essential Health Benefits
Reduce Mental Health
Allow Pre-existing conditions
Defund Planned Parenthood

HOUSE- AHCA
SENATE-BCRA

• 22 million LOSE COVERAGE
• Medicaid block grants
• Loosen EHB
• Reduce Mental Health
• Improved Pre-existing conditions
• Defunded Planned Parenthood

SENATE
SENATE- GRAHAM/CASSIDY

- Tens of millions lose insurance
- Block grant all federal health dollars
- Medicaid block grants and caps
- Pre-existing conditions covered but can set high premiums
- Waive EHB

WHERE NOW???
CHIP REAUTHORIZATION

• Bipartisan since inception 1997
• ACA reauthorized the program to 2019
• Funding ends September 2017
• This is a priority
• Covers 9 million children nationwide
• AAP ask that reauthorization of funding for 5 years

CHIP REAUTHORIZATION

• Keep kids Insurance Dependable & Secure (KIDS) Act 2017
• Deadline won’t be met
• Most states have some leeway before run out of money
• Kansas runs out by March 2018
• How did this happen??
State Issues

- 4% Medicaid cuts restored  July 2017
- Expansion of Medicaid still an issue
- Budget problems
- KanCare
- New administration
- Telemedicine
- Scope of practice
- Immunizations
THREATS TO MEDICAID FOR CHILDREN

- Legislative
- America’s Health Care Act (House bill)
- Senate repeal and replace bill
- CHIP renewal legislation
- Administrative – Waivers
- Medicaid expansion populations

- State Waivers
- Provider payment reductions
- Medicaid managed care growth
- Courts – Judicial remedies unclear

VOICES OF ADVOCACY
PEDIATRICIANS AS ADVOCATES

- Credible
- Nonpartisan
- Experts: you know what children need
- A voice for patients who can’t speak up for themselves
GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

- AAP Key Contact Network
- Targeted action alerts & weekly federal legislative updates
- Visit federaladvocacy.aap.org

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

- Phone calls
- E-mails/letters
- Attend rallies
- Attend Town hall meetings
MEDIA ADVOCACY

• Write an op-ed or letter-to-the-editor
• Proactively follow your local newspaper’s coverage of child health issues
• Keep a journal of compelling patient stories

THE KANSAS CITY STAR
Guest commentary:
Medicaid is vital to the well-being of our children

OP-EDS AND LETTERS TO EDITORS

• “For the last 37 years I have practiced pediatrics in Topeka. During this period I have spent time in private practice, worked in emergency rooms, taken care of hospitalized children...”

“Medicaid Matters for Our Children”
Op-Ed Topeka Capital Journal

• Make it personal
• Anecdotes
• Don’t get technical
• Don’t use medical jargon
• Think locally
• Know word limits/rules
SPEAK UP ON SOCIAL MEDIA

• Nearly 600 tweetiatricians!
• Share & amplify child health messages
• Accounts to follow: –
  @AmerAcadPeds –
  @AAPPres
  @DrRemleyAAP
  @AAPNews
  @HealthyChildren

IN-PERSON MEETINGS

• Meetings with staff
• It is not a debate
• Tell stories
• One page ‘leave behinds’
• Have you contact information
• It is about relationships
• Write follow up thank you notes
TESTIMONY

- Dress appropriately
- Make it short
- Don’t read
  - Tell your stories
- Be prepared to answer questions

NEXT STEPS

- Health care reform still unsettled
- Medicaid is still under threat
- Pediatricians played a significant role in delaying these threats
- We need to continue our efforts
- It’s a marathon not a sprint
- Chapters are important
CHAPTERS

• Chapters are resource
• Chapters can coordinate efforts
• Most Chapters have a advocacy committee or group
• The AAP with its vast resources works through the Chapters
  – Department State Government Affairs
  – Department Federal Affairs

FINAL THOUGHT
THANK YOU

• Mark Del Monte JD
• Staff Department Federal Affairs

• Contact information
  – Dennis Cooley MD, FAAP
    • denniscooley664@gmail.com