

# 2019 Wrap Up Session Issues of Importance



April 26, 2019

Members of the Kansas House of Representatives and Kansas Senate,

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents over 90% of the practicing pediatricians in the state. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children and adolescents in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. It is with this goal in mind that we ask for you to consider the following requests as the 2019 legislative session wraps up:



## **FUND FAMILY FIRST**

The Governor signed HB 2103 implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act. Now, we encourage the Legislature to fully fund the request for services that are included in the budget conference committee for the Department of Children and Families. This legislation can transform the child welfare system by providing services to Kansas children and families that could prevent the need for foster care. This legislation will provide trauma-informed, evidenced based care for Kansas families in crisis. This includes mental health services, substance abuse disorder treatment, and in home parenting skills training while keeping families together to heal.



## **EXPAND MEDICAID (HB 2066)**

Medicaid expansion results in improved access to care, affordability of care, and financial security for low-income working families. Studies have shown improved health outcomes and self-reported health in expansion states. States that have expanded Medicaid have seen reductions in uncompensated care costs and fewer rural hospital closures as well as positive or neutral effects on employment and labor markets. Parents with health insurance coverage are more likely to have children with coverage and are more likely to less likely to have breaks in their own coverage and more likely to remain insured.



## **OPPOSE MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND CBD OIL (SB 113 & HB 2244)**

KAAP opposes all forms of medical marijuana and CBD outside the regulatory process of the FDA. There has been no research on the effects of cannabinoids on pediatric population and because THC content is variable and cannot be consistently verified, there is no way to determine whether the benefits to a child's health would outweigh the potential harm. In addition, children are at risk of unintentional ingestion as marijuana is often sold as food or candy and smoking any substance has negative effects on lung function.



## **SUPPORT FIREARM SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION (OPPOSE HB 2326 & 2415)**

**Oppose HB 2326** allowing concealed carry at age 18. The adolescent brain is still developing and is prone to impulsive behavior and access to a firearm greatly increases risk of suicide. Adolescents, who can't legally consume alcohol, would be allowed to carry a deadly weapon.

**Oppose HB 2415** prohibiting healthcare providers from asking patients regarding firearm possession in residence. Pediatricians provide anticipatory guidance on all aspects of injury prevention including car seats, water safety, bicycle helmets, electrical outlets, choking hazards, hot foods and liquids, household chemicals, and safe storage of firearms and ammunition. Restricting a physician's right to talk about firearm safety with patients violates the physician's right to free speech and the patient's right to hear important health messages.

Thank you for your time and attention. We welcome any questions you might have and are happy to serve as your resource on all pediatric issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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