

Minnesota Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



MNAAP 2024 Legislative & Advocacy Priorities

The Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP) is a professional association of pediatricians and pediatricians-in-training. Our mission is to advocate for the health of every child and adolescent in Minnesota.

Increase Healthcare Access for Children, Youth, and Families

When patients have access to healthcare, they are more likely to live a long, happy, and healthy life. Consistent access can improve the quality of life for children, youth, and families by providing early identification and treatment of illness, preventive care, and management of ongoing or chronic conditions. Policies to increase access to care, such as expanding coverage of services and removing barriers to care like prior authorization, will advance the health and wellbeing of all Minnesotans.

Support Supplemental Funding for Early Childhood and Mental Health Initiatives

The 2023 legislative session saw significant increases in the state budget for early childhood and mental health initiatives. These investments will enhance the health, education, care, and opportunities for future generations of Minnesotans. Supplemental and sustained funding for state support programs, mental health services in schools, and other resources for early childhood and mental health services must continue to be a priority for state lawmakers.

Prevent Infectious Disease Through Increased Vaccination Rates

Minnesota's childhood immunization rates have plateaued and even begun to decrease in recent years. This is a severe public health concern in the medical community. Currently, parents are allowed to exempt their children from public school immunization requirements, otherwise known as the "personal belief exemption." Repealing this exemption and working with lawmakers, the Minnesota Department of Health, and other stakeholders so more children can be protected from the spread of preventable infectious disease will continue to be a top MNAAP priority.

Protect Children and Youth from Firearm Violence

Firearms are the leading cause of death for children in Minnesota and the United States. The previous legislative session saw major successes in passing expanded background checks and extreme risk protection orders, or "red flag" laws. These and other firearm safety laws greatly reduce deaths by suicide, abuse in homes, and violence in schools. Other common-sense policies, such as safe storage requirements and mandatory reporting of lost or stolen firearms, will reduce the number of children killed or injured by firearms and directly address this serious public health crisis.