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Advocating for Kids

President Biden Signs AAP-Championed Congenital Heart Bill

In November, President Biden signed into law the *Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2024*, with AAP President Ben Hoffman, MD, FAAP, in attendance. This AAP-endorsed, bipartisan reauthorization allows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue surveillance systems to track the prevalence of children born with congenital heart defects (CHDs), continue research, collect information about CHDs across the lifespan, and invest in education efforts.

CHDs are the most common type of birth defects. With over 80% of children with congenital heart defects surviving into adulthood, CHDs have become a complex chronic illness often requiring multidisciplinary care.

ICAAP 2025 White Coat Day

Join us at the State Capitol at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 12, as we spend the morning visiting committee hearings and meeting with your own legislator. We encourage you to send an email to your lawmakers and ask to schedule a meeting time that morning. For more information and to be prepared for our time at the Capital, please reach out to Sherry at idahoaap@gmail.org.

Spotlight on a Member

Member Community Involvement

We are in the process of completing our AAP annual report and we need your help. If you are serving on a community board whose mission is children and families, we thank you for your support, and we would like to know about it. A quick shout out to Sara Swoboda for serving on the Voices for Children Board and Joe Wilcomb for serving at the Idaho Sound Beginnings Coalition. Please provide your information to idahoaap@gmail.com.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events

ICAAP 2025 White Coat Day

Please join us for at the state Capitol on Wednesday, February 12, for our White Coat Day. (Additional information in the Advocating for Kids section of this newsletter.

Chapter Winter Business/Award Dinner

Please join us for our winter business and award dinner at the Cottonwood Grille in Boise on February 12 at 5:30, where we will be honoring the following award recipients:

Pediatric Provider of the Year: Dr. Sean Timpane
Child Advocate of the Year: Dr. Kathy Stevens
Organization of the Year: Voices for Children

AAP Pediatric Open Science

The American Academy of Pediatrics is pleased to introduce this monthly email on original, peer-reviewed research from our new gold open access journal. Reading *Pediatrics Open Science* is free. We encourage you to read and share articles with your colleagues and to sign up for [new content alerts](#).

Firearm Safety Educational Opportunities

Becoming a Credible Messenger for Firearm Safety

A growing sense of potential value in firearms safety messaging by health professionals does not immediately translate into patient acceptance. Many firearms owners remain skeptical about health practitioners as trustworthy sources of gun knowledge. A primary source of gun education in the U.S. is entertainment media, which contains a lot of misinformation. Michael Victoroff, MD, a family medicine doctor with 20 years of experience, a Clinical Professor at the CU School of Medicine, and a certified firearms instructor, will provide the facts on firearms design, function, handling, and ballistics. He will address technical and strategic counseling questions while clarifying common misconceptions about firearms. Please contact [Allison Hanes](#) with any questions.

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025

Time: 12:00 pm-1:00 pm CT

Register [HERE](#)

CME credit is available. This webinar will be recorded.

CME credit will only be provided to individuals who attend the live webinar event.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

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- AAP designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
 - This activity is acceptable for a maximum of 1.0 AAP credits. These credits can be applied toward the AAP CME/CPD Award available to Fellows and Candidate Members of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
 - PAs may claim a maximum of 1.0 Category 1 credits for completing this activity. NCCPA accepts *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™] from organizations accredited by the ACCME or a recognized state medical society.
 - This program is accredited for 1.0 NAPNAP CE contact hours of which 0 hrs contain pharmacology (R_x) content, (0 related to psychopharmacology) (0 hours related to controlled substances), per the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Continuing Education Guidelines.
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Resources

Pediatrics On Call



The graphic features a blue square on the left with the text "PEDIATRICS ON CALL" in white, a white stethoscope, and a white speaker icon with sound waves. Below this is the "AAP" logo. To the right, the text "Subscribe to the podcast today!" is in white. Below that, it says "Add Pediatrics On Call to your smart-speaker device or subscribe for updates on Apple, Google, Spotify, or wherever you listen to podcasts. Learn more at aap.org/podcast, and share this email with your medical colleagues and partners in child health." At the bottom, there are four logos: "Listen on Apple Podcasts", "amazon music", "LISTEN ON Spotify", and "Available on YouTube".

New AAP Clinical Report Offers Guidance on Treating Children with PANS

The AAP urges compassion and robust research into the condition known as PANS — or pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric syndrome — acknowledging the diagnosis remains challenging for families and physicians seeking answers. The cause of PANS is unknown; the symptoms include an abrupt onset of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) or severely restricted food intake, as well as anxiety, depression, irritability, regression, deterioration in school performance, sensory or motor abnormalities, or somatic signs and symptoms.

- **Clinical Report:** [Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome \(PANS\)](#)
- **AAP News:** [AAP Provides Guidance on Diagnosing, Treating PANS](#)
- **HealthyChildren.org:** [PANS \(Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome\)](#)
- **News Release:** [American Academy of Pediatrics Offers Guidance on Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome \(PANS\)](#)

Book Corner

Insignificant events in the life of a cactus. By Dusti Bowling

A great read for late elementary or middle school students and their parents. This is a novel about a spunky girl born without arms and a boy with Tourette syndrome navigating the challenges of middle school, disability and friendship.