



July 2025
Newsletter: Highlights

- **Advocating for Kids**
National AAP Committee Reappointment
2025 Legislative Recap
- **Spotlight on a Chapter Member**
ICAAP Chapter Leadership Election
Thank you, Dr. Jared Hansen
Idaho AAP Immunization Task Force
- **Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events**
Children's Champion Luncheon
- **Resources**
Disaster Preparedness Starts Here
Idaho Department of Health & Welfare WIC Outreach Materials
- **Keeping Idaho Kids Safe**
Child Fatality Review Team's Review of 2023 Motor Vehicle Accidents
- **Book Corner**
The Juice Box Bully

Advocating for Kids

National AAP Committee Reappointment

We would like to congratulate Dr. Sara Swoboda on her reappointment to the AAP Committee on Native American Child Health. Thank you for all you do for the children of Idaho.

2025 Legislative Recap

Idaho is a wonderful place to live, but it is not a state where our pediatric community can ignore what goes on in our legislature. Idaho Children Are Primary is a non-profit organization comprising child advocates across the state, including pediatricians, educators and policy makers. Our main job is to track and rate legislation pertaining to children. For the 5 years that Idaho Children Are Primary has been in existence, politicians have increasingly passed laws that directly impact Idaho's children and the way we care for them. Here are a few things that happened this past session:

CCHD screen has to be published on every child's birth certificate. This session, the legislature took rules that previously been the purview of state agencies such as the DHW, and put them into statute. This was reportedly done in the name of government efficiency, but in reality, it puts all rules under the control of legislators instead of subject matter experts. As an example, S 1014 cut and pasted rules around the newborn screening and CCHD, from DHW rules into law. However, they cut and pasted wrong, and now the law states that the CCHD screening needs to be on every birth certificate!

Idaho now has a school voucher law. Idaho is already dead last in the US for public education funding. In Arizona, a similar school voucher law saw their program costs soar into the hundreds and millions. Now because of H93, the state will hand families \$5,000 per child for private or alternative school with zero accountability for how the funds are used.

Advocating for Kids (cont.)

The S1023/S1199 Medical Freedom Act restricts the ability of businesses and schools, to require any “medical interventions”, defined as any pharmacologic or biologic agent which “alters or restricts the biologic function of the body.” Things such as vaccines and treatment for lice fall under this broad categorization. This was one of Governor Little’s only vetoes this year. However, after the veto, the legislature introduced essentially the same bill (other than a childcare exception) which has since passed.

H 243 weakened childcare standards to the point that Idaho now has the lowest standards of not just all states, but of all developed countries. These changes will compromise child safety, as Idaho already had some of the least stringent childcare regulations in the nation. This passed despite testimony from an Idaho family whose infant died in a facility with substandard staff: child ratios. Additionally, the legislation restricts cities and counties from choosing to enforce childcare regulations stricter than state standards—a move that undermines local control and potentially eliminates essential training requirements, such as mandatory CPR certification for childcare providers.

H345 amended Medicaid’s work requirements which will impact parents and children’s access to health care. Most able-bodied Idahoans on Medicaid are already employed, so enforcing and reporting a 20-hour/week work, volunteer, or study requirements adds needless administrative burden. In Arkansas, a similar policy caused 25% of enrollees to lose coverage, even though 95% met the requirements, highlighting it as an access barrier, not a pathway to work. Removing access or forcing recipients off coverage can lead to poorer health outcomes for parents, decreased access for children to normal childhood checkups and immunizations, increased emergency care, and higher long-term costs. Democracy is a team sport, and if we all take on one small part, we can make big changes. We have found that our legislators are overall accessible, and in the past, they have shown a willingness to at least listen prevailing public opinion. Therefore, as Idaho’s foremost experts on children, each and every pediatrician needs to be heard. If you would like to find out how you can help, please contact Mark Uranga, Jessie Duvall, Sara Swoboda, or Noreen Womack

Spotlight on a Member

ICAAP Chapter Leadership Election

We are excited to announce that the following officers have been elected for the term July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027. We look forward to your contributions to our chapter. Thank you.

Dr. Tom Patterson – President

Dr. Brian Birch – Vice President

Dr. Joe Wilbanks – Secretary-Treasurer

Thank you, Dr. Jared Hansen

On behalf of all of us, thank you for your dedicated service as President of the Idaho AAP for the past two years – and for the previous two years you served as Vice President. Your willingness to take time away from your private pediatric practice to lead, advocate, and speak out has made a meaningful and lasting impact.

These past two years have brought some of the most challenging and harmful legislation we’ve seen, affecting children and families in Idaho. Through it all, your vision, steady guidance and unwavering commitment have kept us focused, united, and determined in our advocacy. We look forward to your involvement in your role as past president and an Idaho AAP member.

Thank you, Jared!!

Idaho AAP Immunization Task Force

The Idaho Chapter has been awarded a grant from the AAP to work on our kindergarten immunization rates. Dr. Lisa Barker is putting together a task force to develop a strategic plan. Our first organizational meeting is scheduled for July 14 at 12:30 pm. If you would like to join us, please email Sherry at sherrydeeiverson@gmail.com to receive the appointment with a Zoom link. We will provide task force updates to everyone with newsletter articles.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events (cont.)

Children's Champion Lunch

We would love to have you join our table for the 2025 Children's Champion Lunch. If you have an interesting in attending, please contact Sherry at sherrydeeiverson@gmail.com.



Resources

Disaster Preparedness Starts Here

A new campaign from the Pediatric Pandemic Network (PPN) and the AAP highlights the essential role of pediatric medical homes in disaster preparedness. Whether you are a pediatrician, family care provider, or community health nurse, you might be a medical home for a child and their family. Is your medical home disaster-ready? [View and share our infographic and social media posts available here.](#)

Idaho Department of Health & Welfare WIC Outreach Materials

Teresa Kobza, Outreach Coordinator for Idaho DHW, created the outreach materials list below regarding the WIC program. To view the documents, you can go to the following link:

<https://publicdocuments.dhw.idaho.gov/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=32098&dbid=0&repo=PUBLIC-DOCUMENTS>

English Trigger Card

FY 25-26 11x8.5 Outreach Sign En & Sp

FY 25-26 Birth Certificate Outreach Inserts En & Sp

FY 25-26 8.5x11 Outreach Sign En & Sp

Spanish Trigger Card

What is Idaho WIC PowerPoint

What is Idaho WIC Video

Child Fatality Review Team's Review of 2023 Motor Vehicle Accidents

Synopsis of 2023 Motor Vehicle Accident Reviews

The Child Fatality Review Team reviewed 2023 Motor Vehicle Accidents

involving fatalities of children under age 18 yo. Twenty-seven of 31 cases were reviewed; 4 were not reviewed due to data being unavailable. The age range of victims was 18 months to 17 years.

Common themes were driving after dark, teens driving without an adult in the vehicle, lack of seatbelts or proper restraints. Some cases involved substances/alcohol. Two cases involved children operating heavy machinery/vehicles inappropriate for their age and without appropriate adult supervision.

Practice-changing Cases (beyond our typical counseling around seatbelts, adult supervision, driving under the influence, and driving after dark):

1. We should educate teens and parents that they can (and should) call 911 immediately in case of accident/injury rather than calling a parent and waiting for them to arrive.
2. There were four small children who were rolled over by a large vehicle in or near their driveway. The children were small enough that they could not be seen near the front tire of the large vehicle/truck. All occurred in summer (June-August) during daylight hours when children were outside playing; some had wanted to accompany the parent and followed them to the vehicle. We could remind families to double check around their large vehicle before beginning to drive, especially if kids are playing outside.

-V. Susan Bradford, MD, Affiliate Faculty, Pediatric Residency of Idaho;
bradsusa3@gmail.com

Book Corner

The Juice Box Bully – Empowering Kids to Stand Up for Others

Have you ever seen a bully in action and done nothing about it? The kids at Pete's new school get involved, instead of being bystanders. When Pete begins to behave badly, his classmates teach him about "The Promise". Will Pete decide to shed his bullying habits and make "The Promise"?