



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

July 22, 2016

The Honorable Joe Barton
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Grassley
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kathy Castor
U.S. House of Representatives
205 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael Bennet
U.S. Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: *Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids (ACE Kids) Act*

Dear Rep. Barton, Sen. Grassley, Rep. Castor, and Sen. Bennet:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 124,900 family physicians and medical students across the country, thank you for introducing the *Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids ACE Kids) Act*, HR 546 / S 298.

The *ACE Kids Act* as introduced establishes an option for state Medicaid and CHIP programs to provide benefits to eligible children enrolled through a newly defined entity known as a Medicaid Children's Care Coordination (MCCC) Program. Eligible children are defined as those who are under the age of 18, eligible for Medicaid, and have multiple chronic, physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions that require intensive care coordination to avoid excessive hospitalizations. The MCCC program would provide the enrolled children—through a nationally designated children's hospital network—with necessary treatment for their complex chronic conditions, irrespective of whether those services are furnished within the state where the child resides.

AAFP policies reflect the view that all Americans should have access to comprehensive, continuous and high-quality health care, regardless of social and economic status. The AAFP also believes that everyone in the U.S. should be treated fairly in federal programs, including Medicaid and CHIP. We understand that you are now circulating updated discussion drafts of the bill in an effort to make these bills more patient-centered. We look forward to continuing to work with you as you improve the policies and make high-quality coordinated care available to children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.

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For any questions you might have about the AAFP's perspectives, please have your staff contact Andrew Adair, Government Relations Representative, at aadair@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Wergin MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "W".

Robert L. Wergin, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair