



THE AMERICAN BOARD *of* PEDIATRICS

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The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Joe Barton
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sens. Grassley and Bennet and Reps. Barton and Castor:

On behalf of The American Board of Pediatrics, I wish to express our support for S. 428 and H.R. 3325, The Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act of 2017 (The ACE Kids Act). Thank you for your leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation to improve care for children with complex medical conditions.

The American Board of Pediatrics certifies more than 80,000 pediatricians in the United States based on standards of excellence that lead to high quality health care for children. Board-certified pediatricians have demonstrated standards that exceed those required for licensure alone. Hence the ACE Kids Act is entirely consistent with our vision of improving the health of children.

We are well aware that children with complex medical conditions have chronic life-limiting illnesses and disabilities that often require the coordination of medical care by multiple medical specialists and subspecialists. The ACE Kids Act creates a patient-centered delivery system for this unique population of children. It will also greatly reduce the burden on many families by ensuring ready access to care across state lines, which is often required due to the highly specialized nature of the care.

Under the ACE Kids Act, specially-designed health homes for children with complex medical conditions would:

- employ national quality standards and coordinate care, both essential to improving quality of care and lowering costs.
- include a full range of acute, post-acute and primary care providers, as well as behavioral health professionals.
- focus on outpatient treatment to ensure children get the care that they need in the most appropriate settings closest to home, while reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits.

Providing the most appropriate care for these children is a national challenge. The ACE Kids Act will bring us closer to ensuring these vulnerable children receive the care they need. Thank you for your work on behalf of children and their families.

Sincerely,

David G. Nichols, MD, MBA
President & CEO
The American Board of Pediatrics