

**BLASTFAX!**

**Ga. Chapter AAP: New Campaign from National AAP- *Speak Now for Kids in Health Reform***

Dear Georgia Chapter Members: We received this message from the national AAP recently and wanted to pass it along in case you were interested in participating in this campaign. Thank you.

Avril Beckford, MD, FAAP, President  
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April 17, 2009

FR: Erin Howard, Assistant Director, Public Affairs and Member Advocacy

RE: Speak Now for Kids in Health Reform

On May 1, 2009 the Academy will be partnering with the National Association of Children's Hospitals (NACH) and other child advocacy groups to participate in a new initiative aimed at bringing children's health care needs to the forefront of the health reform discussion. The initiative, Speak Now for Kids in Health Reform, is a national online campaign designed to compel individuals, family members and providers across the country to tell Congress and the Obama Administration what children need in health care reform.

This will be a great opportunity to engage our members in speaking out and actively taking a role in the health care reform discussion. Through this campaign, we want to champion children's needs in health care reform and to demonstrate the strength and reach of the children's community and its commitment to transforming health care for the better. Here's how it works:

Beginning on May 1 through May 10 (Mother's Day), members should sign on to [www.SpeakNowForKids.com](http://www.SpeakNowForKids.com). On this website, pediatricians and the families they care for will be able to submit their health care stories, photos or video messages and tell legislators their priorities for reforming health care for children. The Web site will not only allow health care stories to be captured in words, pictures and video, but will also allow congressional staff to read and see what constituents in their districts are thinking and saying about children and health care reform. Pediatricians will also be able to print out district-specific reports to deliver to their legislators. The ultimate goal is to compile all of the data and anecdotes and present it to the White House to further impact and influence the inclusion of children's health issues in the larger health care discussion.

TIME IS SHORT – Congress is beginning to draft its health care reform legislation and we need our voices to be heard. In the coming days, the Department of Federal Affairs will be sending out a Federal Advocacy Action Network (FAAN) alert to the entire membership about the campaign. Attached to this email is a guide to encourage our members to generate grassroots support for this campaign.

The Department of Federal Affairs has also put together informational sheets explaining the Academy's health reform priorities on several issues including:

- Pediatric Workforce
- Pediatric Access and Payment Rates
- Children and Health Care Equity
- Medical Home
- Health Information Technology
- Mental Health
- Oral Health
- Comparative Effectiveness
- Children and Public Programs
- State Roles and Partnerships
- Medikids
- What is Prevention
- Pediatrics is Prevention
- Gold Standard: Bright Futures
- Access to Care
- High Quality Care
- High Quality Care in a Reformed Health Care System
- Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan Model
- Benefits to Meet All Children's Needs

These fact sheets are available to the public on the Federal Advocacy page of [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org). In addition, members can access the information sheets at: <http://aap.grassroots.com/>.

We urge you to encourage your chapter members to join the Speak Now for Kids campaign. Together, Academy members can send a strong message to Congress that families, pediatric providers and advocates across the country are counting on them to meet the special health care needs of children in any health care reform legislation.

Tell your members to log on to [www.SpeakNowForKids.com](http://www.SpeakNowForKids.com) on May 1st!

Please feel free to contact me at 800/336-5475, extension 3303, or by e-mail at [ehoward@aap.org](mailto:ehoward@aap.org), if you have any questions.

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