

February 13, 2015

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Blastfax!

**Georgia Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics
February 13, 2015**

**Legislative Update: Campaign for Medicaid-Medicare Parity
Continues At State Capitol; We Need Your Help**

The Georgia Legislature yesterday concluded its 15th day of its 40 day session. Increasing the Medicaid payments to Medicare levels remains the #1 Georgia AAP priority this session. Here's an update:

Work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budget is underway and we need your help.

Except for the 2 years of Medicare-Medicaid parity which just ended on December 31, Medicaid payment rates have not been increased by the state in 14 years. Please contact your state representative—**House members especially this week**—and tell them how important this issue is to your ability to serve patients in your community. The House is expected to come up with its version of the FY 2016 next week. Here's what to do:

1. Find out who your state representative and state senator is, and their contact info, if you do not know. Look up both for your home address and your practice address, if different. You can do this on the Georgia AAP website. (www.gaaap.org)
2. Review the Talking Points on our website on this issue; and the Sample Letter there.
3. Contact your representative by phone or email. If you live or practice in one of the districts of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee members, it is VERY important for you to contact them. There is a hearing on the FY budget before that sub-committee **next week**. The Sub-Committee lists are attached & also on the website.

Legislators have recently told us that they're hearing from you. That's good! But don't stop now. Continue your communications with them or please begin if you haven't already. Please watch for our following BlastE's and Faxes. For more information, call 404-881-5091 or email jrice@gaaap.org, Attn: Rick Ward.

Evelyn Johnson, MD
President

Melinda Willingham, MD
Legislative Committee Chair

Anu Sheth, MD
Medicaid Task Force Chair

Georgia AAP: Legislative Session 2015

House Appropriations Health Subcommittee:

Names:	Cap Phone:	Email:
Butch Parrish (R-Swainsboro), Chairman –	404-463-2247	butch.parrish@house.ga.gov
Ben Harbin (Augusta), Vice Chairman -	404-656-3949	ben.harbin@house.ga.gov
Matt Dollar (R-Marietta) -	404-656-5138	matt.dollar@house.ga.gov
Pat Gardner (D-Atlanta) -	404-656-0265	pat@patgardner.org
Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin) -	404-656-5025	matt.hatchett@house.ga.gov
Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville) -	404-656-0213	lee.hawkins@house.ga.gov
Carolyn Hugely (D-Columbus) -	404-656-5058	carolyn.hugely@house.ga.gov
Regina Quick (R-Athens) -	404-656-0220	regina.quick@house.ga.gov
Barbara Sims (R-Augusta) -	404-656-7855	barbara.sims@house.ga.gov
Ron Stephens (R-Savannah) -	404-656-5115	ron.stephens@house.ga.gov
Darlene Taylor (R-Thomasville) -	404-656-0178	darlene.taylor@house.ga.gov

Senate Appropriations Community Health Subcommittee:

Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge), Chairman -	404-656-0040	dean.burke@senate.ga.gov
Renee Unterman (R-Buford), Vice Chairman –	404-463-1368	renee.unterman@senate.ga.gov
John Albers (R-Roswell) -	404-463-8055	info@senatorialbers.com
Valencia Seay (D-Riverdale) -	404-656-5095	valencia.seay@senate.ga.gov
Tommie Williams (R-Lyons) -	404-656-0089	tommie.williams@senate.ga.gov