

American Academy of Pediatrics

March 25, 2015

Page 1 of 1

Georgia AAP Legislative Alert...

Conference Committee Begins Work on Budget Bill; Contact Conferees or Your Rep. or Senator & Urge to “Hold the Senate Position” on Medicaid Increases for PCPs

Yesterday the Budget Conference Committee at the Georgia General Assembly began talks on the FY 2016 state budget. The Conference Committee is comprised of 3 leaders from each chamber and is charged with resolving differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget. The Senate version has \$19.4M in new funds to increase Medicaid payment rates to physician practices to 85% of Medicare for certain common CPT codes. This includes services for pediatricians, OB's, IM's and FP's.

The conferees are:

HOUSE:

Rep. Terry England, Auburn	englandhomeport2@windstream.net	404-463-2247
Rep. Jan Jones, Milton	jan.jones@house.ga.gov	404-656-5072
Rep. Jay Powell, Camilla	jay.powell@house.ga.gov	404-656-5103

SENATE:

Sen. Jack Hill, Reidsville	jack.hill@senate.ga.gov	404-656-5038
Sen. David Shafer, Duluth	david.shafer@senate.ga.gov	404-656-0048
Sen. Bill Cowsert, Athens	bill.cowsert@senate.ga.gov	404-463-1366

What to Do Now: If you know any of the above conferees or practice in their area or draw patients from their district please contact them and thank them for their support on this issue and ask them to accept the Senate position (if a House member) or hold the Senate position (if a Senate member) on this budget item. That amount is needed to begin to put Medicaid rates on a path to Medicare parity, and sustain the viability of pediatric practices who serve these children.

In the CC process, many groups are asking for money in the budget and the budget amounts can shift rapidly. Emphasize how important these funds are to addressing an inequity of 14 years, with Medicaid rates paying so low compared to Medicare. Remember, we have Talking Points on our website at www.gaaap.org. (Click on Advocacy, and then the Legislative Page.).

Also, at the Gold Dome, HB 110: which would permit dangerous fireworks is in Senate Committee today. Contact your representative and tell them that dangerous fireworks in Georgia means more burns and injuries to children. Georgia has a good, conservative fireworks law, which allows some types of fireworks, but bans the dangerous kind. It deserves to be maintained and appreciated for putting children's safety first.

More information? Contact the Georgia AAP office at 404-881-5091 or email: jrice@gaaap.org, Attn: Rick Ward. Thank you.

Melinda Willingham, MD, Chair
Legislative Committee

*For up-to-date information from the State Capitol follow us
on Twitter @GChapterAAP!*

1330 West Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 500 • Atlanta, GA 30309-2904
Fax: 404-249-9503 • Phone: 404-881-5020 • website: www.gaaap.org