**Key Milestones**

- 2005 - Department of Government Affairs was combined with the Department of Clinical Practice recognizing that the politics and best practice created by Clinical Practice guide the issues on which we advocate.
- 2005 - A first-class program was added to the Department of Government Affairs, recognizing the need to support the significant advocacy efforts of the Regional Organizations.
- 2006 - First Congressional Fellow program
- 2007 - AACP chose as first friends of children's mental health congressional awards
- 2008 - Council voted to establish AACP's 1st Congressional Fellowship program
- 2009 - Creation of the AACP/SAAMHSA Fellowship program
- 2010 - Creation of the Advocacy Liaison program
- 2011 - Formation of AACP's Youth Advisory Group
- 2011 - Council voted to expand on the activities of the Department of Government Affairs efforts by establishing a 501(c)(6) and to ultimately create a Political Action Committee
- 2013 - The incorporation of the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 501(c)(6) - AACP's advocacy arm
- 2013 - AACP leadership attended a White House Summit on the status of mental healthcare

**Testimony on the Hill and in the States**

June 2011, District of Columbia. Committee of the Whole Council, Jada Pay, M.D., J.D.
September 2012, California Mental Health Policy Field Hearing. Marc Newy, M.D.
December 2012, Maine Department of Health and Human Services, MaineCare Redesign Taskforce, Sandra Fritsch, M.D.
April 2013, Does HIPAA Help or Hinder Patient Care and Public Safety. House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Richard Martin, M.D.
July 2013, New Jersey Senate Legislative Oversight Committee Hearing, Dahle E. Karr, M.D.

**Amicus Briefs**

AACP joined legal briefs that support:

  That the adolescent brain at the ages of 16 and 17 exhibits development and that the eighth and fourteenth amendment forbid sentencing these under 18 to death.
  The existence of a fundamental difference between juvenile and adult brains, and as such juveniles cannot be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for non-homicide crimes.
- *Miller v. Alabama and Jackson v. Hobbs* (June 2013)
  The science of adolescent behavior and brain development that successfully demonstrated sentencing juveniles to life in prison without the possibility of parole for homicide crimes is a violation of the eight amendment.
- *Weisblatt v. Florida* (November 2015)
  A physician's First Amendment right to ask their patients about firearms ownership. This brief is challenging Florida's Firearms Owner's Privacy Law which would prohibit physicians from asking patients about firearm ownership.

**Major Legislation**

- 2008 - Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act
- 2009 - State Children's Health Insurance Program reauthorization
- 2010 - Affordable Care Act passed, including loan repayment for child and adolescent psychiatrists
- 2012 - Best Pharmaceuticals for Children’s Act was permanently reauthorized