

**Government Affairs and Clinical Practice**  
**2018 AACAP Major Actions and Documents Chronology (partial year)**  
(Association communications noted by \*)

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Letter with AACAP\* and 39 other mental health organizations, supporting the “Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Relief Act of 2018,” S. 3796, as championed and drafted by AACAP. Sent to U.S. Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA), dated December 20, 2018.

AACAP\* Joint Letter with 13 other major medical and mental health organizations including AAP, AMA, ACOG, and APA, calling for Improved Conditions for Migrant Children and Pregnant Women and an Investigation into a Migrant Child’s Death While in U.S. Custody. Sent to Secretary Nielsen, DHS, and Commissioner McAleenan, Customs and Border Protection, dated December 18, 2018.

AACAP Joint Consensus Statement on Evidence-based Practice Decision-making for Mental and Behavioral Health Care following the Coalition for the Advancement and Application of Psychological Science Mental Health Summit, dated December 9, 2018.

AACAP-initiated Letter on proposed changes to the Flores Settlement Agreement (FSA) that could endanger migrant children held in Border Control custody. Sent to Secretaries Nielsen, DHS, and Azar, HHS, dated November 6, 2018.

AACAP\*-initiated “Call to Action” on Addressing the Immigrant Child and Family Crisis to President Trump, dated October 19, 2018.

AACAP\*-initiated “Call to Action” on Urging Your Representative to Address the Mental Health Workforce Shortage to U.S. House of Representative members, dated October 19, 2018.

AACAP-initiated Letter on Medicare Shared Savings Program: Accountable Care Organizations – Pathways to Success on support for mental health integration into new payment models. Sent to Administrator Verma, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), dated October 16, 2018.

Attended Capitol Hill Event Celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Act, sponsored by the Kennedy-Satcher Center for Mental Health Equity, dated October 3, 2018.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Letter with 47 other major mental health organizations including AACAP\*, AAP, APA (Psychological), and NAMI supporting the inclusion of language in H.R. 6 to increase the substance abuse workforce. Sent to House and Senate leadership, dated September 21, 2018.

*JAACAP* Editors' Statement opposing the practice of separating children from their families at the US border and announcing the creation of an open access collection of articles on the effects of separation, early life trauma, and related topics. Sent to AACAP members and *JAACAP* subscribers, dated September 20, 2018.

AACAP Joint Letter with 37 other major medical professional organizations, originated by The Patient-Centered Evaluation and Management Services Coalition, urging CMS to delay the revision of the E/M payment and documentation system as proposed in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule until the agency reviews the recommendations that will be made by the AMA-convened CPT/RUC Workgroup early next year. Sent to Administrator Verma, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), dated September 10, 2018.

AACAP-initiated Comments on Medicare Program: Revisions to Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee schedule and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2019, supporting the CMS "Patients Over Paperwork" initiative and urging delay in changing E/M payment policy, pending AMA CPT/RUC Workgroup recommendations. Sent to Administrator Verma, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), dated September 5, 2018.

AACAP Joint Letter with 162 other major medical and health professional organizations, originated by AMA, asking CMS not to finalize in 2019 the Evaluation and Management proposals in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule until recommendations are reviewed from the AMA CPT/RUC Workgroup, convened in response to these proposals. Sent to Administrator Verma, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), dated August 27, 2018.

Brief of Amici Curiae, including AACAP, filed in Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, involving the constitutionality of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement policy of transferring parents to detention facilities away from their children, dated August 22, 2018.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Letter with AACAP\* and 39 other mental health organizations, supporting the "Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Relief Act of 2018," H.R. 6597, as championed and drafted by AACAP. Sent to U.S. Reps. John Katko (R-NY) and Grace Napolitano (D-CA), dated August 21, 2018.

AACAP-initiated Letter to Iowa Board of Medicine, commenting on proposed Joint Rule on psychologist prescribing, dated August 21, 2018.

AACAP Letter of Commitment to American Psychiatric Association agreeing to disseminate materials developed through a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant to address the need for education and training of healthcare practitioners on various privacy laws and regulations related to mental health and substance use disorders, dated August 15, 2018.

AACAP and New Jersey ROCAP members “Call to Action” on New Jersey Recreational Marijuana legislation, to the New Jersey House, Senate, and Governor, dated August 3, 2018.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Letter with 46 other major mental health organizations, including AACAP\*, AAP, APA, and MHA, supporting the “Mental Health Services for Students Act,” S. 3337 (the Senate version of the “Mental Health in Schools Act”). Sent to U.S. Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN), who introduced the Act, dated August 2, 2018.

AACAP\* Joint Letter with 14 other major medical specialty organizations, supporting the “Resident Education Deferred Interest Act,” or “REDI Act,” H.R. 5734. Sent to U.S. Rep. Bruce Babin (R-TX), who sponsored the bill, dated July 31, 2018.

AACAP\* Joint Letter with 13 other major health organizations, including AAP, APA, and AMA, calling for congressional oversight hearings on the separation of migrant children and families. Sent to leadership of relevant U.S. House and Senate committees, dated July 24, 2018.

AACAP\* Joint Letter with 141 other major mental health, medical, and charitable organizations, including AAP, AMA, CDF, March of Dimes, and NAMI, opposing reduced funding for the Navigator program within the Affordable Care Act. Sent to HHS Secretary Azar and Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services Administrator Verma, dated July 23, 2018.

AACAP-initiated Comments on FY 2019 Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System and Reporting Updates, urging the agency not to remove quality measures on seclusion and restraint from the measure set for patient safety reasons. Sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, dated June 25, 2018.

AACAP\* Joint Letter with 17 other major mental health organizations, including APA and NAMI, opposing policies that result in the separation of children from families at the U.S. border. Sent to U.S. Attorney General Sessions, Health and Human Services Secretary Azar, and Homeland Security Secretary Nielsen, dated June 20, 2018.

AACAP\*-initiated “Call to Action” on pending legislation: Separation of Children from Families at the Border to the U.S. House of Representatives, dated June 19, 2018.

AACAP\*-initiated “Call to Action” on Separation of Children from Families at the Border to President Trump, dated June 18, 2018.