

Government Affairs and Clinical Practice
2019 AACAP Major Actions and Documents Chronology
(Association communications noted by *)

Association of American Publishers Sign-on Letter with AACAP and 124 other scientific research and publishing organizations, opposing a forthcoming executive order that would mandate immediate, free distribution of peer-reviewed journal articles that report on federally funded research. Sent to President Trump, dated December 18, 2019.

AACAP-initiated Letter expressing opposition to a Proposed Rule on the Nonenforcement of Health and Human Services Grants Regulations. Sent to HHS Acting Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources, Division of Grants Moughalian, dated December 17, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-on Letter with AACAP* and 24 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of including five bipartisan mental health bills in the formation of “Cures 2.0” legislation. Sent to the sponsors, Reps. DeGette (D-CO), and Upton (R-MI), dated December 16, 2019.

Sign-on Letter with AACAP* and 19 other medical and mental health organizations to House and Senate in support of the “Children and Media Research Advancement Act (CAMRA)” (H.R. 1367), dated December 12, 2019.

AACAP* Letter, in support of including five bipartisan bills in the formation of “Cures 2.0” legislation. Sent to the sponsors, Reps. DeGette (D-CO), and Upton (R-MI), dated December 12, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-on letter with AACAP* and 39 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of “Effective Suicide Screening and Assessment in the Emergency Department Act of 2019” (H.R. 4861). Sent to the sponsors, Reps. Bilirakis (R-FL) and Engel (D-NY), dated December 4, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-on letter with AACAP* and 41 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the “Barriers to Suicide Act of 2019.” Sent to the sponsors, Reps. Byer (D-VA), and Katko (R-NY), dated December 4, 2019.

AACAP-initiated Statement Responding to Efforts to ban Evidence-Based Care for Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth, dated November 8, 2019

AACAP* Joint Letter with AMA and over 100 other specialty and state medical associations, expressing scope of practice concerns with the October 3, 2019 Executive Order entitled, “Protecting and Improving Medicare for our Nation’s Seniors.” Sent to HHS Secretary Azar, dated October 29, 2019.

AACAP* Joint Letter with 110 other medical and mental health organizations, expressing concerns about current legislative approaches for addressing the issue of surprise medical bills, including recommendations for maintaining marketplace balance while protecting patients from unexpected coverage gaps. Sent to Sens. McConnell (R-KY), Majority Leader, and Schumer (D-NY), Democratic Leader, Speaker Pelosi (D-CA), and Minority Leader McCarthy (R-CA), dated October 17, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Letter with AACAP* and 40 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the “Resilience Investment, Support, and Expansion (RISE) from Trauma Act” (S.1770, H.R. 3180). Sent to the sponsors, Sens. Durbin (D-IL), and Murkowski (R-AK), and Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL), and Gallagher (R-WI), dated October 16, 2019.

AACAP Joint Amicus Brief with AAMC and other organizations opposing the Administration’s efforts to reverse the DACA program, filed October 7, 2019.

AACAP Joint Amicus Brief arguing that the Administration’s recession of DACA was arbitrary and capricious and will result in significant damage to the children of DACA recipients, dated October 7, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Letter with AACAP* and 5 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the “Resilience Investment, Support, and Expansion (RISE) from Trauma Act” (S.1770, H.R. 3180). Sent to the sponsors, Sen. Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL), dated September 23, 2019.

AACAP-initiated Comment Letter on 2020 Revisions to Payment Policies under the Physician Payment Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment Policies. Sent to HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Verma, dated September 18, 2019.

AACAP-initiated Letter to Dr. Sigounas, Administrator, and Dr. Washko, Director, Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administrator, contesting and seeking further information on its behavioral health workforce projections, 2016-2030, and workforce simulation model, dated September 11, 2019.

Catherine Martin, MD, represented and spoke on AACAP’s behalf on the health dangers of e-cigarettes to the HHS CDC Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health, dated September 9, 2019.

AACAP Joint Amicus Brief with the APA (Psychiatry) and other organizations opposing the Administration's efforts to change the terms of the 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement, dated August 28, 2019.

AACAP-initiated Statement opposing the Trump Administration's proposed changes to the 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement, dated August 27, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Letter with AACAP* and 38 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the "Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act of 2019," (H.R. 2431). Sent to the sponsors, Reps. Katko (R-NY), and Napolitano (D-CA), dated July 31, 2019.

Joint Letter with AACAP* and 12 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the "Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act," (H.R. 3239). Sent to Reps. Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker, Hoyer (D-MD), Majority Leader, Clyburn (D-SC), Majority Whip, and Ruiz, MD (D-CA), U.S. House of Representatives, dated July 22, 2019.

Joint Letter with AACAP* and 16 other medical and mental health organizations, urging the removal of proposed language in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would eliminate military medical billets and graduate medical education programs throughout the Military Health System. Sent to Sens. Inhofe (R-OK), Chairman, and Reed (D-RI), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, Reps. Smith (D-WA), Chairman, and Thornberry (R-TX), Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee, Sens. Tillis (R-NC), Chairman, and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Personnel, Reps. Speier (D-CA), Chairwoman, and Kelly (R-MS), Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Military Personnel, dated July 19, 2019.

Joint Letter with AACAP* and 47 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of Section 4 of the "EMPOWER for Health Act of 2019," (H.R. 2781). Sent to the sponsors, Reps. Schakowsky (D-IL) and Burgess, MD (R-TX), dated July 17, 2019.

Joint Letter with AACAP* and 69 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the "American Dream and Promise Act of 2019", (H.R. 6), and the "Dream Act of 2019", (S. 874). Sent to Sens. McConnell (R-KY), Majority Leader, and Schumer (D-NY), Minority Leader, Sens. Graham (R-SC), Chairman, and Feinstein (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, dated July 9, 2019.

Joint Letter with AACAP* and 13 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the "Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act," (H.R. 3239). Sent to Reps. Nadler (D-NY), Chairman, and Collins (R-GA), Ranking Member,

House Judiciary Committee, and Reps. Thompson (D-MS), and Rogers (R-AL), Ranking Member, House Homeland Security Committee, dated June 18, 2019.

Mental Health Priorities Letter with 20 other medical and mental health organizations, supporting Child and Adolescent Mental Health Principles, dedicated to promoting the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents, dated June 13, 2019.

AACAP* Joint Letter with 237 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the “Vaccine Awareness Campaign to Champion Immunization Nationally and Enhance Safety (VACCINES) Act of 2019,” (H.R. 2862). Sent to the sponsors, Reps. Kim Schrier, MD, FAAP, (D-WA), Eliot Engel, (D-NY), Kurt Schrader, (D-OR), Michael Burgess, MD, (R-TX), Gus Bilirakis, (R-FL), and Brett Guthrie, (R-KY), dated June 7, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Letter with AACAP* and 56 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the “Mental Health Parity Compliance Act of 2019”, (S.1737). Sent to the sponsors, Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), dated June 6, 2019.

AACAP*-initiated Letter, in support of “Improving Mental Health Access from the Emergency Department Act,” (H.R. 2519). Sent to the sponsor, Rep. Raul Ruiz, MD, (D-CA), dated June 6, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Letter with AACAP* and 56 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the “Mental Health Parity Compliance Act of 2019”, (S.1737). Sent to Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chairman, and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, dated June 5, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Letter with AACAP* and 47 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the “Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act of 2019,” (S.1576, H.R. 2874). Sent to the sponsors, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Rep. Joseph Kennedy, III (D-MA), dated May 21, 2019.

AACAP-initiated Statement on Ketamine, drafted in response to a recent FDA press release, noting the lack of controlled studies in children and adolescents for ketamine or esketamine, urging caution when prescribing, and noting that esketamine is not proven to be safe or indicated and not currently recommended for this population, dated May 8, 2019.

AACAP Letter with APA taking issue with HRSA’s recent erroneous child psychiatry workforce projection study, requesting that it be removed from its website, and asking that it work with our organizations to republish credible studies, as soon as possible. Sent to George Sigounas, MS, PhD, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, and Michelle Washko, PhD, Director Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, dated April 24, 2019.

AACAP Joint Letter with 66 other medical and mental health organizations, expressing disagreement with HRSA's latest mental health workforce projections and offering assistance in recalculating them. Sent to George Sigounas, MS, PhD, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, dated April 22, 2019.

AACAP*-initiated Letter, in support of the "Dream Act of 2019," (S. 874). Sent to the sponsors, Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Richard Durbin (D-IL), dated April 17, 2019.

AACAP*-initiated Letter, in support of the "American Dream and Promise Act of 2019," (H.R. 6). Sent to the chief sponsor, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), dated April 17, 2019.

AACAP* Joint letter with 45 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of level funding for FY 2020 for Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression and for the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program. Sent to Sens. Roy Blunt (R-MO), Chair, and Patty Murray (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies, and to Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Chairwoman, and Tom Cole (R-OK), Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, dated April 10, 2019.

AACAP* Joint Letter with 26 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of \$400 million in FY 2020 funding for The Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program. Sent to Sens. Roy Blunt (R-MO), Chair, and Patty Murray (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies, and to Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Chairman, and Tom Cole (R-OK), Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, dated April 8, 2019.

AACAP-initiated Letter, requesting clarification on recent testimony regarding mental health screening of migrant youth by HHS and its contractors. Sent to HHS Secretary Azar, dated April 8, 2019.

AACAP* Joint Letter with 30 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of continued funding to help states develop "plans of safe care" for infants with prenatal substance exposure. Sent to Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY), Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, dated April 8, 2019.

AACAP*-initiated Letter, in support of legislation that "Short Term-Limited Duration Insurance shall have no force or effect," (H.R. 1010). Sent to the chief sponsor, Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL), dated April 5, 2019.

AACAP*-initiated Letter, in support of the “Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019,” (H.R. 986). Sent to the chief sponsors, Reps. Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH), Donald Beyer, Jr. (D-VA), and Joe Courtney (D-CT), dated April 5, 2019.

AACAP* Joint Letter with 31 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of The “Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act of 2019” (“ACE Kids Act”), (S. 317/H.R. 1226). Sent to the sponsors, Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Michael Bennet (D-CO), and Reps. Kathy Castor (D-FL), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA), and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), dated March 25, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Letter with AACAP* and 50 other mental health organizations, in support of the “Mental Health Services for Students Act of 2019” (H.R. 1109). Sent to the chief sponsors, Reps. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and John Katko (R-NY), dated March 22, 2019.

AACAP* Joint Letter with 32 other medical organizations, in support of the “Resident Education Deferred Interest Act”, (H.R. 1554). Sent to the sponsor, Rep. Brian Babin, DDS (R-TX), and Reps. Bill Posey (R-FL), Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Steve Stivers (R-OH), and Andy Harris, MD (R-MD), dated March 19, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Letter with AACAP* and 42 other mental health organizations, in support of recommended appropriations for FY 2020 SAMHSA and HRSA grants and programs. Sent to Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Patty Murray (D-WA), Ranking Member, dated March 7, 2019.

AACAP Letter with 78 other mental health and medical organizations, in support of funding at least \$698 million for Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant. Sent to Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Ranking Member, and Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Chair, House Labor and Human Resources Appropriations Subcommittee and Tom Cole (R-OK), Ranking Member, dated March 7, 2019.

AACAP*-initiated Letter in opposition to Maryland SB302, which would prohibit and criminalize ECT for minors. Sent to State Sen. Delores Kelley, dated March 1, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Letter with AACAP* and 42 other mental health organizations, in support of actions on the federal and state level to address rising health care costs. Sent to Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Ranking Member on the committee, dated March 1, 2019.

AACAP*-initiated Letter, in support of H.R. 8, the “Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019.” Sent to Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA), dated February 26, 2019.

AACAP* Letter with APA, AAP, AMA and 162 other national, state and local medical, public health, and research organizations, asking for \$50 million in funding for CDC to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention. Sent to Senate and House Appropriation Committee Leadership, dated February 21, 2019.

AACAP-initiated Letter, urging DEA to allow telemedicine prescribing for ADHD and other conditions under Federal Ryan Haight Act, as proposed by American Telemedicine Association. Sent to Acting U.S. Attorney General Whitaker and DEA Section Chief Federico, dated February 11, 2019.

AACAP Joint Response with 40 other medical and scientific organizations, providing feedback on the implications of Plan S for societies, scholarly publications, and the research community. Sent to cOAlition S, dated February 8, 2019.

AACAP* Letter with AMA, APA, AAP, 59 other medical specialty societies, and 41 state medical societies, providing guidance on the development of legislation to address surprise billing and narrow networks. Sent to Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Committee, and other Congressional committee leaders, dated February 7, 2019

AACAP* Letter with APA, NAMI, and 62 other medical specialty societies, urging the extension and expansion of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) demonstration to address the root causes and results of the opioid epidemic. Sent to Senate and House Majority and Minority Leaders, dated February 5, 2019.

AACAP* Letter with 71 other medical specialty societies and physical and mental health organizations, supporting reauthorization of the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment program. Sent to Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House Energy and Commerce and Senate HELP committees, dated February 1, 2019.

AACAP-initiated Letter, providing comments on the draft strategy on reducing regulatory and administrative burdens relating to the use of health IT and EHRs. Sent to Don Rucker, MD, National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, HHS, dated January 28, 2019.

AACAP-initiated Letter, urging reconsideration of proposed changes to protected classes of drugs under Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage programs. Sent to Administrator Verma, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), dated January 24, 2019.

AACAP-initiated Letter to American Board of Medical Specialties, providing feedback on the draft report on Continuing Board Certification, dated January 15, 2019.

APA and AACAP Joint Letter, in support of the nomination of Bonnie Zima, MD, MPH, to serve on the Adult and Child Core Set Annual Review Workgroup. Sent to Paul Decker, President and CEO, Mathematica Policy Research, dated January 10, 2019.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Letter with AACAP* and 55 other mental health organizations, in support of expanding and extending the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) demonstration. Sent to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY), dated January 10, 2019.