

**Government Affairs and Clinical Practice**  
**2021 AACAP Major Actions and Documents Chronology**  
**As of November 3, 2021**

(Association communications noted by \*)

Joint Sign On Letter with AACAP and 18 other mental health and medical groups, urging the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) to update the NAIC Market Regulation Handbook to reflect current law. Sent to Market Regulation and Consumer Affairs Committee Chair Richardson and Vice Chair Clark, dated November 3, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and other mental health and medical groups, giving policy options to alleviate barriers to accessing evidence-based mental health and substance use disorder treatments. Sent to Senate Finance Committee Chair Wyden (D-OR) and Ranking Member Crapo (R-ID), dated November 1, 2021.

Voter Voice Alert to all AACAP members, asking them to contact their state and federal elected officials to make them aware of the national children's mental health emergency declaration. 98% responded resulting in 1,072 emails to federal and local representatives. Results as of October 29, 2021.

Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose and Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 63 other mental health and medical groups, urging the extension of the Federal Parity Act to Medicare and all of Medicaid. Sent to Senate Committee on Finance Chair Wyden (D-OR) and Ranking Member Crapo (R-ID), and Sens. Bennet (D-CO) and Cornyn (R-TX), dated October 8, 2021.

Children's Hospital Association joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 29 other mental health and medical groups, urging Congress to include children's mental health priorities in budget reconciliation and also supporting bills (H.R. 4943) and (H.R. 4944). Sent to Senate Majority Leader Schumer (D-NY) and House Speaker Pelosi (D-CA), dated September 29, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 50 other mental health and medical groups, in support of funding for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in the Fiscal Year 2022 Continuing Resolution. Sent to House Committee on Appropriations Chair DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Granger (R-TX), and Senate Committee on

Appropriations Chair Leahy (D-VT) and Vice Chairman Shelby (R-AL), dated September 17, 2021.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 17 other mental health and medical groups, in support of the “Collaborate In An orderly and Cohesive Manner Act (COCM)”. Sent to Reps. Fletcher (D-TX) and Herrera Beutler (R-WA), dated September 10, 2021.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 36 other mental health and medical groups, in support of New Jersey State (S.2559, A.4179) legislation that would permanently expand telehealth in New Jersey allowing patients to continue to receive care where and when they need it. Sent to Governor Murphy, dated September 10, 2021.

Joint Statement of Support with AACAP and 5 other mental health and social work organizations, in support of a minimum age of at least 12 years for juvenile justice system jurisdiction, dated August, 2021.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 50 other mental health and family groups, in support of a White House Office on Children and Youth, federal children’s cabinet, and a White House Conference on Children and Youth. Sent to President Biden, dated July 30, 2021.

AMA Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 101 medical and mental health organizations, urging the VA to reconsider developing National Standards of Practice for healthcare occupations. Sent to US Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary McDonough, dated July 29, 2021.

Joint Statement with AACAP and close to 60 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of COVID-19 vaccine mandates for all workers in health and long term care, dated July 26, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 24 other mental health and family groups, in support of the “Children and Media Research Advancement Act CAMRA,” (H.R. 2161, S. 971). Sent to House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman Pallone (D-NJ) and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), and Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chairwoman Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Burr (R-WA), dated July 14, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 39 other mental health and family groups, in support of the “Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act,” (S. 2069). Sent to Sens. Stabenow (D-MI) and Blunt (R-MO), dated June 30, 2021.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 28 other medical and dental organizations, in support of the “Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act,” (H.R. 4122). Sent to Reps. Babin (R-TX) and Houlihan (D-PA), dated June 30, 2021.

American Academy of Pediatrics Amicus Brief, with AACAP and 18 other medical and mental health organizations, opposing Arkansas House Bill 1570 “Act 626 the Health Care Ban”, prohibiting medical treatments to transgender youths, filed June 24, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 52 other mental health and family advocacy groups, in support of “The Medicaid Bump Act,” (H.R. 3450, S. 1727). Sent to Reps. Tonko (D-NY), and Trone (D-MD), and Sens. Smith (D-MN), and Stabenow (D-MI), dated June 18, 2021.

Joint Statement with AACAP and 11 other medical associations, opposing the decision by the American Academy of Physician Assistants to change their title to “Physician Associate,” dated June 15, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 56 other mental health and family advocacy groups, in support of the nomination of Dr. Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon for Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Sent to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chairwoman Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Burr (R-NC), dated June 7, 2021.

Joint Sign-On Letters with AACAP\* and 39 other medical and mental health organizations, requesting FY 2022 funding for the NIH Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) program. Sent to House Appropriations Committee Chair and Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chairwoman DeLauro (D-CT) and Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Granger (R-TX) and Subcommittee Ranking Member Cole (R-OK) and Senate and Appropriations Committee Chair Leahy (D-VT) and Vice Chair Shelby (R-AL) and Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chairwoman Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Blunt (R-MO), dated May 27, 2021.

New York Council on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and AACAP joint letter, in support of NY State Bill (A.4982, S.4051), ending the arrest and prosecution of children under 12 years of age. Sent to State Sen. Bailey, and State Assemblyman Hevesi, dated May 5, 2021.

Joint Statement with AACAP\* and 29 other mental health and medical organizations, endorsing the coalition’s Child and Adolescent Mental and Behavioral Health Principles, dated May 4, 2021.

New Jersey ROCAP and AACAP\* Alert, asking AACAP members to contact state legislators in support of state funding for the NJ Child Collaborative Mental Health Program, dated April 30, 2021.

AACAP Statement, in support and solidarity with the family of Mr. George Floyd and calling for shared solutions for confronting racism and advancing justice, dated April 21, 2021.

Illinois ROCAP and AACAP\* Alert, asking AACAP members to contact state legislators in support of an IL utilization management bill, dated April 21, 2021.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 49 other national and state medical associations, in support of pediatrician, Dr. Richard Pan, for the position HRSA Administrator at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, sent to President Biden, dated April 15, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Letters with AACAP\* and 44 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the “Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act of 2021” (H.R. 3150, S. 1578). Sent to Reps. Katko (R-NY) and Napolitano (D-CA), and Sens. Smith (D-MN) and Murkowski (R-AK), dated April 13, 2021.

Illinois ROCAP and AACAP\* Alert, asking AACAP members to contact state legislators to oppose state legislation that would expand psychologists’ ability to prescribe to children and adolescents, sent April 12, 2021.

AACAP\* Alert asking AACAP members to contact Congress requesting \$50M to fund the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Relief Program, dated April 14, 2021.

Freedom for All Americans Joint Statement with AACAP and 113 other medical, mental health, and family organizations, opposing state legislation targeting transgender youth, dated April 9, 2021.

AACAP and Arkansas Council on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Joint Letter, thanking Governor for vetoing HB 1570, on medical issues relating to transgender and gender diverse youth. Sent to Gov. Hutchinson, dated April 8, 2021.

Kennedy Forum and Center for Law and Social Policy Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 98 other mental health education organizations, requesting that the Department of Education put out guidance to encourage schools to use American Rescue Plan funds for mental health supports. Sent to Sec. of Education Cardona, dated April 6, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Sign-On Letters with AACAP\* and 47 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of “Effective Suicide Screening and Assessment in the Emergency Department Act of 2021” (H.R. 1324, S. 467). Sent to Reps. Soto (D-FL) and Bilirakis (R-FL), and Sens. King (I-ME) and Murkowski (R-AK), dated April 5, 2021.

Higher Education Mental Health Alliance Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 8 other mental health education organizations, congratulating the new Secretary of Education on his appointment. Sent to Sec. of Education Cardona, dated April 2, 2021.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 19 other children's healthcare organizations, in support of \$485M in funding for FY22 for Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program (CHGME). Sent to Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chairwoman Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Blunt (R-MO), and House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chairwoman DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Cole (R-OK), dated March 31, 2021.

AACAP and Arkansas ROCAP Letter asking for veto of Arkansas HB1570, which would ban access to evidence-based treatments for transgender youth. Sent to Gov. Hutchinson, dated March 31, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 41 other mental health organizations, in support of "Supporting Eating Disorders Recovery Through Vital Expansion (SERVE) Act" (H.R. 1309, S. 194). Sent to Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Reed (D-RI) and Ranking Member Wicker (R-MS), and House Armed Services Committee Chairman Smith (D-WA) and Ranking Member Rogers (R-MI), dated March 26, 2021.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 25 other medical and mental health organizations, in appreciation of \$80M added funding for the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access program at HRSA in the American Rescue Plan Act, and to request additional funding for FY 2022. Sent to Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chairwoman Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Blunt (R-MO), and House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chairwoman DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Cole (R-OK), dated March 25, 2021.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 201 other medical and mental health organizations, requesting \$50M in shared funding for CDC and NIH to research firearm morbidity and mortality prevention. Sent to Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Leahy (D-VT) and Vice Chairman Shelby (R-AL), and House Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Granger (R-TX), and Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chairwoman Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Blunt (MO-R), and House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chairwoman DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Cole (R-OK), dated March 25, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 59 other medical and mental health organizations, in praise of mental health spending provisions in the American Rescue Act. Sent to President Biden, dated March 24, 2021.

AACAP\* Sign-On to HRC Project THRIVE Pledge, in support of LGBTQ youth, families, and health care professionals, dated March 22, 2021.

Child Trauma and ACEs Policy Working Group Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 22 other youth advocacy groups, calling for continued integration of trauma-informed policies and practices into federal programs. Sent to Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Leahy (D-VT) and Ranking Member Shelby (R-AL), and House Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Granger (R-TX), dated March 18, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 49 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the “Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention (STANDUP) Act” (H.R. 586). Sent to House Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) and Minority Leader McCarthy (R-CA), and House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman Pallone (D-NJ) and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), dated March 16, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 62 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of “Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Act” (H.R. 1667, S.610). Sent to the chief sponsors, Sens. Kaine (D-VA), Cassidy (R-LA), Reed (D-RI), Young (R-IN), and Reps. Wild (D-PA), McKinley (R-WV), Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), and Chu (D-CA), dated March 16, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 53 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of “Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act” (H.R. 5469), sent to the sponsors, Reps. Watson Coleman (D-NJ) and Katko (R-NY), dated March 12, 2021.

Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 89 other medical and mental health organizations, calling for increased funding for maternal mental health programs in FY 2022. Sent to Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chairwoman Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Blunt (MO-R), and House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chairwoman DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Cole (R-OK), dated March 11, 2021.

APA Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 8 other medical organizations, supporting state legislation that will allow continued access to and coverage of telemedicine, even after the pandemic. Sent to State governors, National Governor's Association, National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and the National Conference of State Legislatures, dated March 11, 2021.

Human Rights Campaign Joint Statement with AACAP\* and 12 other medical and mental health organizations, opposing anti-LGBTQ state-based legislation, dated March 9, 2021.

AACAP\* Statement applauding House passage of the “Equality Act” (H.R. 5), which would extend protections against discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in education, employment, housing, credit, public spaces and services, and federally funded programs, including within child welfare and adoption systems, dated March 3, 2021.

Joint Senate and House Sign-On Letters with AACAP\* and 65 other medical and mental health organizations, urging Congress to fund the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program at \$50 million in FY22. Sent to Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Leahy (D-VT) and Vice Chair Shelby (R-AL), Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chair Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Blunt (R-MO), House Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro (D-CT), House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Granger (R-TX), and Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Ranking Member Cole (R-OK), dated March 2, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 49 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of “Mental Health Services for Students Act” (H.R. 721). Sent to Reps. Napolitano (D-CA) and Katko (R-NY), sent March 2, 2021.

Joint Sign-on Release by AACAP and 34 other mental health organizations and substance use disorder organizations, “A Unified Vision for Transforming Mental Health and Substance Use Care,” dated February 25, 2021.

AAP Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 25 other medical, hospital, and mental health organizations, requesting an additional \$16 million for the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program. Sent to Senate Majority Leader Schumer (D-NY) and Minority Leader McConnell (R-KY), and House Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) and Minority Leader McCarthy (R-CA), dated February 12, 2021.

Child Trauma and ACEs Policy Group Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 11 other medical organizations, commending funding for trauma-informed programs in federal COVID-19 relief legislation. Sent to Sens. Durbin (D-IL) and Capito (R-WV), sent February 5, 2021.

Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-On Letter with AACAP\* and 55 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of “Barriers to Suicide Act” (H.R. 792). Sent to the sponsors Reps. Beyer (D-VA), Napolitano (D-CA), and Katko (R-NY), sent February 1, 2021.

AACAP endorsement, “Stopping the Mental Health Pandemic Act,” (H.R. 588), conveyed to Rep. Porter (D-CA), January 26, 2021.

AACAP Letter, nominating the Academy for the AMA CPT Education Excellent Award. Sent to AMA CPT staff Caitlin Dail, dated January 18, 2021.

AACAP Letter, opposing removal of non-statutory anti-discrimination practices in HHS Services Grants Regulation, Final Rule. Sent to Secretary Azar, dated January 15, 2021.

AACAP President's Statement, decrying violent protests in Washington, DC. Posted on AACAP website homepage, January 8, 2021.

AMA Sign On Letter with AACAP and 100 other national medical specialty and state medical societies, opposing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Interim Final Rule (IFR), entitled "Authority of VA Professionals to Practice Health Care." Sent to Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Wilkie, dated January 7, 2021.