

Government Affairs and Clinical Practice
2024 AACAP Major Actions and Documents Chronology
As of August 1, 2024

(Association communications noted by *)

AACAP Comment Letter responding to a RFI Regarding the Cures 2.0 Act. Sent to U.S. House of Representatives, dated August 1, 2024.

AACAP Comment Letter expressing concern over the proposed transfer of marijuana from schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to schedule III. Sent to DEA Administrator Milgram, dated July 22, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 3 other medical and mental health organizations, expressing concern over the use of proprietary, unpublished utilization review, and medical necessity criteria for the denial and approval of services and treatments. Sent to Employee Benefits Security Administration Assistant Secretary Gomez, dated July 18, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 35 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of The Kids Off Social Media Act. Sent to Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell, and the sponsors Senators Schatz and Cruz, dated June 28, 2024.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 45 other medical and mental health organizations, expressing support for the Federal Communications Commission proposed rule on georouting solutions for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Sent to FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel, dated June 27, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 166 other medical and mental health organizations, urging the creation of a federal Office of Caregiver Health. Sent to President Biden, dated June 20, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 34 other medical and mental health organizations, urging the passage of the bipartisan Telemental Health Care Access Act (HR 3432 S 3651) and including a similar provision in the amendment AINS. Sent to House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone, and House Subcommittee on Health Energy & Commerce Chair Guthrie and Ranking Member Eshoo, dated June 18, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 16 other medical and mental health organizations, urging the inclusion of Schedule IIN (non-narcotic) medications in the DEA proposed rule Telemedicine Prescribing of Controlled Substances when the Practitioner and the Patient have not had a prior in-person Medical Evaluation. Sent to DEA Administrator Milgram, dated June 11, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 433 medical and mental health organizations, urging increased funding in FY2025 for NIH and NIJ. Sent to Senate Committee on Appropriations Chair Murray and Vice Chair Collins, and House Committee on Appropriations Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro, dated June 3, 2024.

Mental Health Liaison Group Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 40 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the Early Action and Responsiveness Lifts Youth (EARLY) Minds Act (HR 7808). Sent to House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone, and House Energy and Commerce Committee Health Subcommittee Chair Guthrie and Ranking Member Eshoo, dated May 31, 2024.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Coalition Leadership Team Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 3 other medical and mental health organizations, urging changes to Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment benefit. Sent to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Senior Policy Advisor Ginnis, dated May 28, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 77 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of stronger enforcement against unauthorized and illegal tobacco products. Sent to US Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Califf, US Attorney General Garland, and US Customs and Border Protection Senior Official Miller, dated May 22, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 28 other medical and mental health organizations, urging and increase in funding for FY 2025 for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program. Sent to Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Moore Capito, and House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro, dated May 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 66 other medical and mental health organizations, urging a markup session for the Kids Online Safety Act (HR 7891) and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act (HR 7890). Sent to House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone, dated May 14, 2024.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Coalition Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 25 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the Early Action and Responsiveness Lifts Youth Minds Act (EARLY), (HR 7808). Sent to the sponsors Reps. Pfluger, Castor, Joyce, and Sarbanes, dated May 9, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 40 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act of 2023 (HR 6664). Sent to Reps. Eshoo and McCaul, dated May 7, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 59 other medical and mental health organizations, in appreciation of the \$13 million in funding for the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program at HRSA in FY 2024, and the request for \$13 million for the program in the FY 25 Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bill. Sent to Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Moore Capito, and House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro, dated May 6, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Children's Hospital Association, asking for a forum of all relevant stakeholders to discuss the impact of ongoing stimulant shortages and to identify solutions to the shortage. Sent to US HHS Secretary Becerra and DEA Administrator Milgram, dated May 2, 2024.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 46 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the Medicaid Bump Act of 2024 (HR 4892, S 3921). Sent to Senators Smith and Stabenow, and Reps. Tonko, Fitzpatrick, and Trone, dated May 1, 2024.

International Transformational Resilience Coalition Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 54 other medical and mental health organizations, asking for a legislative hearing on the bi-partisan Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act (HR 3073). Sent to House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairwoman McMorris Rogers and House Subcommittee on Health Energy and Commerce Chairman Guthrie and Vice-Chair Bucshon, dated April 4, 2024.

Joined medical society Amicus Curiae Brief in *Pam Poe, Penny and Peter Poe et al v. Raul Labrador Attorney General of the State of Idaho et al*, filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The brief cited the need for all adolescents, including those with gender dysphoria, to receive the optimal medical and mental health care they need and deserve. The brief provided an accurate description of the relevant treatment guidelines and summarized the scientific evidence supporting the gender-affirming medical care for adolescents prohibited by the gender-affirming health care ban. Filed April 2024.

Mental Health Liaison Group Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Recommendations, from AACAP* and 51 other medical and mental health organizations. Sent to Congress, dated March 29, 2024.

New York Times Ad with AACAP and 51 other medical and mental health organizations, urging the bringing of the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) to a floor vote in April. Sent to House Majority Leader Schumer, dated March 2024.

Joined Amicus Curiae Brief in *Rikki Held et al v. State of Montana* filed in the Supreme Court of the State of Montana, citing the public health benefits of climate solutions and the corollary health dangers, including to youth mental health, of inaction. Filed March 2024.

Joined medical society Amicus Curiae Brief in *Scarlet Van Garderen et al v. State of Montana*, filed in the Supreme Court of the State of Montana. The brief provided an accurate description of the relevant treatment guidelines and summarized the scientific evidence supporting the gender-affirming medical care for adolescents prohibited by the gender-affirming health care ban. Filed March 2024

Joined Amicus Curiae Brief representing child-serving organizations, in *City of Grants Pass, OR v. Gloria Johnson et al*, filed in the Supreme Court of the United States. The brief cited the unconstitutional criminalization of homelessness as uniquely harmful for youth, particularly marginalized youth who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness. Filed March 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 38 other medical and mental health organizations, in support of the implementation of the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program. Sent to HRSA Administrator Johnson, dated March 5, 2024.

AACAP* Statement on how integrating mental and behavioral health care in primary care can improve health care efficiency. Sent to Senate Committee on Budget Chairman Whitehouse and Ranking Member Grassley, dated March 4, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 51 other medical and mental health organizations, strongly supporting the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (HR 6205 and S 3211). Sent to Congressmen Schneider, Bacon, Caraveo, and Cole, and Senators Durbin and Cramer, dated February 27, 2024.

AACAP Comment Letter responding to a RFI Regarding Mental Health and Substance Use Needs in Higher Education. Sent to Department of Education Assistant Secretary Paydar, dated February 26, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 48 other medical and mental health organizations, urging the inclusion of the bipartisan Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences Act (PACE) in the reauthorization of the Substance Use Disorder Prevention That Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT). Sent to Senate Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions Chair Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy, and House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairwoman McMorris Rogers and Ranking Member Pallone, dated February 22, 2024.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 48 other medical and mental health organizations, urging the reauthorization of the Substance Use Disorder Prevention That Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act). Sent to Senate Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions Chair Sanders and

Ranking Member Cassidy, and House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairwoman McMorris Rogers and Ranking Member Pallone, dated February 9, 2024.

Mental Health Liaison Group Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 41 other medical and mental health organizations, urging inclusion of the bipartisan Kid Providing Resources for Optimal Outcomes Against Fatalities Act (Kid PROOF Act) in the final reauthorization of the SUPPORT Act. Sent to Senate Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions Chair Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy, and House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairwoman McMorris Rogers and Ranking Member Pallone, dated February 8, 2024.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Coalition Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 32 other medical and mental health organizations, urging passing of legislation addressing the youth mental health crisis. Sent to House Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries, and Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell, dated February 8, 2024.

Joint ITRC Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 159 other medical and mental health organizations, urging Congress to enact the bi-partisan Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act, (HR 3073 and S 1452). Sent to Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell, and House Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries, dated February 6, 2024.

Joint Amicus Brief submitted to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals with professional medical, mental health, child welfare and immigrant rights organizations in Texas v. U.S., MALDEF, and New Jersey. The case is appealing a district court decision that found Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) likely unconstitutional. The brief expressed support for DACA and highlights the possible trauma and toxic stress exposures, among other negative impacts to the children of DACA recipients should DACA get overturned. Amicus brief was submitted February 1, 2024.

Joint Medical Society Amicus Brief submitted to the Third District Appeals Court of Texas with 24 professional medical and mental health organizations expressing support for gender affirming care in Masters v. PFLAG. The brief requests the court to affirm the District Court's temporary injunction. The PFLAG case is challenging the February 2022 Texas Attorney General opinion incorrectly concluding that certain evidence-based medical treatments that are critical for many adolescents with gender dysphoria constitute child abuse. Amicus brief was submitted January 25, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP and 128 medical and mental health organizations, urging legislation to reverse the 3.37 percent Medicare physician payments cuts that recently took effect. Sent to House Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries, and Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Republican Leader McConnell, dated January 17, 2024.

Joint Sign-On Letter with AACAP* and 109 medical and mental health organizations, opposing the Medicare Audiology Access Improvement Act (H.R. 6445). Sent to House Committee on

Energy and Commerce Chair McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone, and House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal, dated January 9, 2024.

Joint Medical Society Amicus Brief submitted to the Texas Supreme Court with 21 professional medical and mental health organizations expressing support for gender affirming care and the plaintiffs in *Lazaro Loe v State of Texas*. The brief requests the court to affirm the trial court's temporary injunction. The *Loe* case is challenging Texas state law (SB 14) which prohibits best practice care for transgender youth, which was signed into law in July 2023. Amicus brief was submitted January 5, 2024.