

March 25, 2019

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kathy Castor
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sens. Grassley and Bennet, and Reps. Castor, Bilirakis, Eshoo, and Herrera Beutler:

As national organizations committed to children's health, we write in strong support of the "Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act of 2019" (ACE Kids Act, S. 317/H.R. 1226), which has been incorporated into the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 (H.R. 1839). We thank you for your leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation to improve care for children with complex medical conditions in the Medicaid program.

Children with complex medical conditions have chronic life-limiting illnesses and disabilities, and often see six or more specialists and a dozen or more physicians. Under the current Medicaid system, parents of children with multiple, life-threatening disabilities struggle to coordinate the complex care of their kids, which often requires travelling to out-of-state providers. The ACE Kids Act works to create a patient-centered, pediatric-focused delivery system for this unique population of children. It is an important step in fixing the current fragmented system for children with complex medical conditions, ensuring ready access to care and reducing the burden on their families.

Under the ACE Kids Act, specially-designed health homes created for children with complex medical conditions will employ national quality standards and coordinate care—both essential to improving overall quality of care. These health homes will include the full range of acute, post-acute and primary care providers, and will focus on outpatient care to ensure children get the care that they need in the most appropriate setting closest to home while reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits. The ACE Kids Act—which is voluntary for states, families and providers—will also help families access the array of outpatient and community services and supports needed by these children.

Providing children with complex medical conditions enrolled in Medicaid the best possible care is a national challenge, and the ACE Kids Act will bring us closer to ensuring these vulnerable children receive the care they need. We are proud to support the ACE Kids Act, and we look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation this year.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
The American Board of Pediatrics
American College of Cardiology
American College of Surgeons
American Heart Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Echocardiography
American Thoracic Society
America's Essential Hospitals
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Autism Society of America
Autism Speaks
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Children's Hospital Association
ChildServe
Epilepsy Foundation
Family Voices
March of Dimes
Maxim Healthcare Services
Mended Little Hearts
Moms Rising
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Board for Certified Counselors
National Down Syndrome Society
Pediatric Congenital Heart Association
Tricare for Kids Coalition
Vizient