AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

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American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

Government Affairs and Clinical Practice
2026 AACAP Major Actions and Documents Chronology
as of August 31, 2026
(Association communications noted by *)

Joint Comment Letter with 9 other medical professional societies in response to a proposed rule that would make it more difficult for unaccompanied migrant children to be placed with sponsors and remain in the country. Sent to Assistant Deputy Director for Policy Toby Biswas of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, dated August 25, 2026.

Joint Amicus Brief submitted to the United States Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals with 9 other medical professional societies in the case of The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) v James Uthmeier. The brief offers the scientific expertise of the joining organizations in a legal challenge to a December 2025 criminal enforcement action initiated by the Florida Attorney General against AAP for a 2018 policy statement on gender dysphoria. Amicus brief submitted August 25, 2026.

Joint Amicus Brief submitted to the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals with 17 other youth healthcare organizations in the case of *Z.A et al v Todd Blanche*. The brief offers the scientific expertise of the joining organizations in a legal challenge to the Department of Justice issuing subpoenas to several children's hospitals that offer gender-affirming care. Amicus brief submitted August 12, 2026.

Joint Amicus Brief submitted to the United States Second Circuit Court of Appeals with XX other youth healthcare organizations in the case of *Carter Coe v Todd Blanche*. The brief offers the scientific expertise of the joining organizations in a legal challenge to the Department of Justice issuing subpoenas to several children's hospitals that offer gender-affirming care. Amicus brief submitted August 3, 2026.

AACAP Comment Letter responding to an interim final rule published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding how states will be required to implement work requirements to maintain Medicaid eligibility. Sent to CMS in response to comment docket CMS-2454-IFC, submitted July 31, 2026.

Joint Sign-On Letter with the Mental Health Liaison Group and 44 other mental health organizations opposing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) final rule implementing work requirements in the Medicaid program. Sent to CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz, MD and Deputy Administrator Dan Brillman, dated July 31, 2026.

Joint Amicus Brief submitted to the United States First Circuit Court of Appeals with 17 other

medical professional societies in the case of *The Children's Hospital Corporation v. United States Department of Justice*. The brief offers the scientific expertise of the joining organizations in a legal challenge to the Department of Justice subpoenaing several hospitals' records relating to the provision of gender-affirming care to patients under 18. Amicus brief submitted July 21, 2026.

Joint Amicus Brief submitted to the United States Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals with 17 other medical professional societies in the case of *Parent A.A., et al. v. United States Department of Justice*. The brief offers the scientific experitise of the joining organizations in a legal challenge to the Department of Justice subpoenaing several hospitals' records relating to the provision of gender-affirming care to patients under 18. Amicus brief submitted July 14, 2026.

AACAP Comment Letter responding to a proposed rule from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that would transfer grant approval authority to political appointees. Sent to OMB in response to comment docket OMB2026-0034, submitted July 13, 2026.

AACAP Comment Letter responding to a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Request for Information regarding substance research, policy, and strategies to improve the prevention, treatment, recovery of chronic disease of addiction and mental illness. Sent to HHS in response to comment docket 91 FR 35221, submitted July 5, 2026.

AACAP Policy Statement on the Role of AI in the Delivery of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Care. Issued June 22, 2026.

AACAP Policy Statement on the Use of Service Intensity Instruments in Pediatric Mental Health Care Planning. Issued June 19, 2026.

Joint Sign-On Letter with 4 other psychiatric organizations expressing concern regarding the planned removal of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) buprenorphine practitioner locater and pharmacy locater. Sent to SAMHSA Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Chris Carroll, dated May 30, 2026.

Joint Statement with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Hospital Association, and the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families as part of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Coalition on Mental Health Awareness Month. Issued May 29, 2026.

Joint* Sign-On Letter with 52 other national and state healthcare organizations requesting $31 million in funding for the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program in the FY27 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHSE) appropriations bill. Sent to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations LHHSE Subcommittees, dated May 28, 2026.

Joint* Sign-On Letter with 62 other national and state healthcare organizations requesting $30 million in funding for the Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program in the FY27 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHSE) appropriations bill. Identical letters sent to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and LHHSE Subcommittees, dated May 21, 2026.

Joint* Sign-On Letter with 24 other youth healthcare organizations requesting $1 billion dollars in funding for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program in the FY27 appropriations bill. Sent to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittees, dated May 19, 2026.

AACAP Policy Statement on Supporting Access to Intermediate Levels of Care as a Strategy to Mitigate Pediatric Behavioral Health-Related Emergency Department Boarding. Issued May 15, 2026.

AACAP Presidential Statement on recent MAHA actions related to psychiatric medications. Issued May 7, 2026.

AACAP letter to the Governor of Vermont requesting that he veto a bill passed by the legislature that would grant prescriptive authority to psychologists without medical training. Sent to Governor Scott, dated April 24 2026.

Joint* Sign-On Letter with the Mental Health Liaison Group and 43 other mental health organizations in support of the *Stabilization to Prevent (STOP) Suicide Act* (H.R. 8124), which would create a grant program to expand the use of stabilization services for individuals with serious thoughts of suicide. Sent to bill sponsors Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE), dated April 21, 2026.

Legislative Action Center Campaign for Illinois-based CAPs to contact their state lawmakers to urge them to oppose a law that would grant prescriptive authority to psychologists practicing in the state. Sent April 14, 2026.

Joint Amicus Brief submitted to the Supreme Court of North Dakota with 18 other medical professional societies in the case of *T.D. v. Wrigley*. The brief offers the scientific expertise of the joining organizations in a legal challenge to a state-level ban on gender-affirming care for minors. Amicus brief submitted April 10, 2026.

Joint* Sign-On Letter with 23 other medical professional societies expressing concern regarding barriers preventing International Medical Graduates from entering or remaining lawfully in the country amidst disruptions in J-1 visa processing. Sent to Secretary of State Rubio and Secretary of Homeland Security Mullin, dated April 8, 2026.

Joint* Sign-On Letter with 58 other health organizations requesting at least $10.5 billion in discretionary funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration in the FY27 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHSE) appropriations bill. Sent to Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations LHHSE Subcommittees, dated April 3, 2026.

Joint* FY27 Budget Request with the Mental Health Liaison Group stating recommended funding levels for federal mental health and substance use disorder agencies and programs. Sent to House and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs and Ranking Members, dated March 23, 2026.

Joint* Sign-On Letters with 88 other health organizations requesting FY27 appropriations funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs. Identical letters sent to House and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs and Ranking Members, dated March 18, 2026.

Legislative Action Center Campaign for New Jersey-based CAPs to contact their state lawmakers and urge them to oppose legislation that would grant advance practice nurses independent practice authority. Sent March 13, 2026.
AACAP Presidential Statement reaffirming commitment to evidence-based care and the physician-patient relationship. Issued March 12, 2026.

Joint Amicus Briefs submitted to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia with 14 other medical professional societies and health organizations in the cases of *WPATH v. FTC*, *AAP v. FTC*, *and the Endocrine Society v. FTC*. The brief offers the scientific expertise of the joining organizations in a legal challenge to the Federal Trade Commissions' efforts to subpoena the records of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. Amicus Briefs submitted March 11, 2026.

Joint* Sign-On Letter with the Mental Health Liaison Group and 34 other mental health organizations in support of the *Kid Providing Resources for Optimal Outcomes Against Fatalities (Kid PROOF) Act* (H.R. 6396), which would improve the ability for parents to hide dangerous items when their child is at risk of attempting suicide. Sent to bill sponsors Rep. John James (R-MI), Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN), Rep. Maria Salazar (R-FL), and Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), dated March 11, 2026.

AACAP Presidential Statement on racism, dehumanization, and the mental health of children and adolescents. Issued February 20, 2026.

Joint Comment Letter with 66 other national and state health organizations in response to recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed rules preventing hospitals participating in the Medicaid & CHIP programs from treating gender dysphoria and preventing Medicaid & CHIP from reimbursing services related to gender affirming care. Sent to CMS in response to comment dockets RIN 0938-AV73 and RIN 0938-AV87, submitted February 17, 2026.

AACAP Comment Letter opposing a proposed Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services rule that would prevent hospitals from being reimbursed for furnishing gender-affirming care to children. Comments submitted to Health and Human Services Secretary Kennedy Jr. in response to comment docket RIN 0938-AV87, submitted February 17, 2026.

AACAP Comment Letter opposing a proposed Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services rule that would prevent hospitals that participated in the Medicare and Medicaid systems from providing gender-affirming care. Comments submitted to Health and Human Services Secretary Kennedy Jr. in response to comment docket RIN 0938-AV87, submitted February 17, 2026.

Joint* Sign-On Letter with the Mental Health Liaison Group and 32 other mental health organizations in support of the *Prevent Youth Suicide Act* (H.R. 5482), which would train school teachers to identify distress and warning signs of suicide in students. Sent to bill sponsors Rep. Zachary Nunn (R-IA) and Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH), dated February 3, 2026.

AACAP Government Affairs Department statement on SAMHSA grant terminations. Issued January 20, 2026.

Joint* Sign-On Letter with the Mental Health Liaison Group and 48 other mental health organizations calling for robust, full-year funding for the Labor, Health and Human Services,

Education, and Related Agencies funding bill. Sent to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, dated January 12, 2026.