



The Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the association representing 1500 pediatricians in Michigan, applauds Governor Snyder on his focus on child health issues in his *Special Message on Health and Wellness*.

The Governor recognized the importance of every person in Michigan having a primary care provider receiving care in a medical home. The concept of the medical home was first introduced by the American Academy of Pediatrics in the 60's. We stand committed to insuring that every child in Michigan receives care in a family centered medical home and will work with the Governor and other partners to make sure this goal becomes reality.

The Governor singled out the issues of infant mortality and childhood obesity as two problems that we must tackle in Michigan. As steering committee partners in the Governor's summits on infant mortality and obesity we pledge to continue to offer our expertise in promoting statewide policies on reducing infant mortality and obesity in Michigan's children.

An important tool we can use in addressing the obesity problem among children is including the Body Mass Index measure in the state's immunization registry, the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). We support the Governor's proposed rule change to incorporate this important measure and will work with pediatric providers to include the measure in every well child visit they perform.

Pediatricians understand the important link between oral health and overall physical health. We are therefore very pleased to support the Governor's position of expanding the Healthy Kids Dental program which serves Medicaid-enrolled children into all 83 counties in Michigan. We have sought this expansion for a number of years and welcome the Governor's support in the next budget cycle.

The Governor has expressed his support for requiring insurance coverage for evidence based therapies for children with autism. We recognize the struggles families face that have children with autism and other behavioral health and developmental disabilities. We continue to support mental health parity for all.

Finally, the MIAAP stands ready to bring the pediatric voice to the table as the Governor directs a review of the Public Health Code. We will monitor the impacts of any revisions on the health of the children of Michigan.

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