

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Request for Relief for Pediatric Specialists and Primary Care
Pediatricians from the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency Fund**

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and
Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations whose members include medical
doctors and surgeons practicing in pediatrics, pediatric medical
subspecialties, and pediatric surgical subspecialties, we appreciate the
work Congress has done to support physician practices during the coronavirus
public health emergency, including the establishment of provider relief
grants in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
However, to date, the distribution of these relief funds has left physicians
who see no Medicare-enrolled patients behind. Our organizations are writing
to urge you to ensure immediate financial relief payments to pediatric
specialists and primary care pediatricians. Without this much needed
assistance, our young and most vulnerable patients will be placed at risk
with increasingly limited access to patient care that they need. This
assistance must apply to all physicians who care for children and should not
leave out any pediatric subspecialty providers.

Like other physician practices, the practices of pediatric specialists and
primary care pediatricians, which are highly Medicaid-oriented, have been
severely harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Department of Health and
Human Services (HHS) has quickly distributed CARES Act relief funds to
health care providers that treat Medicare patients, practices that do not
have Medicare claims are still waiting for assistance. In addition, they
have not been able to access some other financial relief policies issued by
HHS and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services because of the focus on
Medicare. For example, these practices were not eligible for the Medicare
Advanced or Accelerated Payment Program.

We, therefore, recommend that Congress take decisive action to **direct HHS to
prioritize access to the new \$75 billion provider relief funds included in**

the interim COVID relief bill to providers who have not received relief grants, especially those in pediatrics and pediatric subspecialties.

Our pediatric specialists and primary care pediatricians are facing major financial challenges. Substantial layoffs and even practice closures will threaten medically necessary and time-sensitive care for children during and after this public health emergency. We urge that you act to ensure delivery of immediate, direct financial relief payments to our pediatric specialists and primary care pediatricians, like the assistance already provided to physicians that participate in Medicare.

Thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented time. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our respective organizations if you have any questions. We are happy to be a resource to you and your staff during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Surgeons
American Thoracic Society
American Urological Association
Child Neurology Foundation
Child Neurology Society
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Council of Pediatric Subspecialties

Endocrine Society

Heart Rhythm Society

North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecologists

North American Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition

Pediatric Endocrine Society

Pediatric Infectious Disease Society

Pediatric Pulmonology Training Director's Association

Scoliosis Research Society

Society for Pediatric Dermatology

Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons