

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