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Subject: AAP files suit today
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From the President



Letter from the AAP President

December 24, 2025

Dear colleagues:

It has been an honor and a privilege to represent the Academy and its 67,000 members during 2025. I'm incredibly proud of [what we have accomplished](#) and how we have conducted ourselves in a difficult environment. And it turns out, I'm not quite done sharing updates with you yet!

By the time you're reading this, you may have already seen the news [that today AAP filed suit](#) against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), following HHS abruptly cutting nearly \$12 million of AAP's federal public health funding last week. The terminated funding supported critical pediatric public health programs serving communities across the country, including efforts to prevent sudden unexpected infant death, improve early detection of developmental disabilities and birth defects, strengthen pediatric care in rural communities, support adolescents facing substance use and mental health challenges, and improve standards of care for newborns. [AAP News](#) has more.

This legal action is just the latest in many steps AAP has taken this year to protect programs and services that children and families rely on. Whether through combatting false narratives about vaccines, taking legal action, or using the media to amplify our message, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to follow science and to hold up children as our North Star.

As an organization, the Academy has been brave and bold on behalf of children and pediatricians, pediatric medical specialists and pediatric surgeons. We have been thoughtful about when to speak out, what to say, who to partner with and when to lead.

This has not been easy, but we should be proud of our Academy, which has stayed committed to our founding principles. We have not been afraid to uphold these principles and push back when needed, including suing HHS over vaccine policy because we know children deserve better, and now, suing to restore our funding and continue our vital work.

Many of you have been reaching out asking what you can do to show support for AAP during this time. As always, the easiest way to support the Academy is through its members. If you have friends and colleagues whose memberships have lapsed, encourage them to come back to their AAP family. We need every voice to join us in speaking up for children.

For those who are already AAP members, I encourage you to deepen your engagement in AAP communities, such as our chapters, committees, councils and sections, and join the ranks of passionate expert volunteer leaders we count on to advance our mission. We also have a Friends of Children Fund at AAP to support our mission-driven work. You can [donate](#) and encourage

others to donate on [HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org).

As the year comes to a close, I cannot thank you enough for your support and your dedication. I know that you will welcome the 2026 AAP President with the same enthusiasm I have received. The work and challenges will still be there on the first of the year, and I am thrilled to pass the baton in this marathon relay race to advance child health, to the very capable hands of Andy Racine, MD, PhD, FAAP.

Thanks for all you do, and keep showing up!

Sue Kressly, MD, FAAP

President

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