



AATA Signs Joint Letter Advocating for the Protection of Children's Coverage

AATA

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On March 10, 2017, AATA signed another joint letter to key legislators involved in recent broad-reaching, federal healthcare reorganization. This letter advocates for continued improvement of coverage for children and warns that sections of the *American Healthcare Act* move in the opposite direction of this goal.

The letter was addressed to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Speaker Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and strongly urges them to “keep the unique needs of children front and center and adopt a ‘do no harm’ standard for children as you consider any changes to the nation’s health care system.” The letter reminds legislators that today, ninety-five percent of children in the United States have health coverage; this is an historic high. This number is largely attributable to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The organizations made the two following requests of Congress in order to meet the “do no harm standard” for children: (1) Preserve and protect Medicaid’s funding structure that guarantees poor and low-income children and children with disabilities coverage for the services and treatment they need to survive and thrive and (2) Protect the ACA’s Medicaid expansion and continue coverage for low- income parents.

In the concluding statement, the AATA and partner organizations call on Congress to “protect children’s health coverage as you consider the *American Health Care Act* and any reforms to the ACA and Medicaid. Any changes that move backwards and make children worse off by depriving them of comprehensive and affordable child-appropriate coverage will jeopardize not only their futures but the nation’s future economic and national security.”

AATA will continue to be an active voice in advocating for policy that benefits and protects both art therapists and their clients.



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