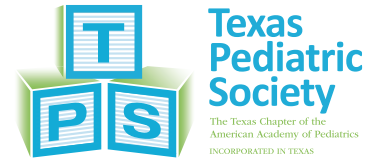


2021 Legislative Priorities



STRENGTHEN TEXAS MEDICAID AND CHIP

- Improve children's access to an adequate physician network by increasing rates to levels sufficient to attract providers and cover the provision of services
- Institute 12 months of continuous coverage for children in Medicaid to ensure continuity of care
- Improve access to contraception for teens enrolled in the CHIP program
- Integrate social needs of families into the Medicaid healthcare delivery system

ENSURE WHOLE FAMILY HEALTH AND FINANCIAL WELLBEING

- Expand medical coverage and access Texas' federal healthcare dollars to keep working parents, their peers, and their children healthy
- Extend postpartum Medicaid coverage for women for at least 12 months to ensure our mothers are healthy and can care for their newborns

INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

- Fully fund our Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program to ensure all eligible children receive services

IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICE IMMUNIZATION POLICY

- Bring ImmTrac2 up to modern standards by converting the registry to an opt-out system
- Ensure a "Parent's Right to Know" de-identified school campus level vaccine exemption rates by posting them publicly on the state's public health website
- Support schools so they can properly enforce vaccine admission requirements to ensure all children are protected from infectious diseases
- Require medical exemptions from school vaccine requirements to be signed by a physician licensed in Texas
- Increase Texas' flu immunization rate by ensuring children down to the age of 3 can receive their flu vaccine at a pharmacy

DEFEND CHILDREN FROM ABUSE

- Protect funding for child abuse centers of excellence across our state
- Promote the invaluable work of child abuse pediatricians which helps keep children safe from abuse and neglect

COMBAT THE VAPING AND TOBACCO EPIDEMIC AMONG OUR YOUTH

- Increase taxes on conventional cigarettes and impose an excise tax on e-cigarettes that achieves parity with combustible cigarettes
- Ban all characterizing flavors, including menthol, in tobacco products and e-cigarettes
- Require all e-cigarette retailers to obtain a permit to sell e-cigarette products, similar to the current tobacco retailer permit

REDUCE CHILDHOOD INJURIES AND FATALITIES

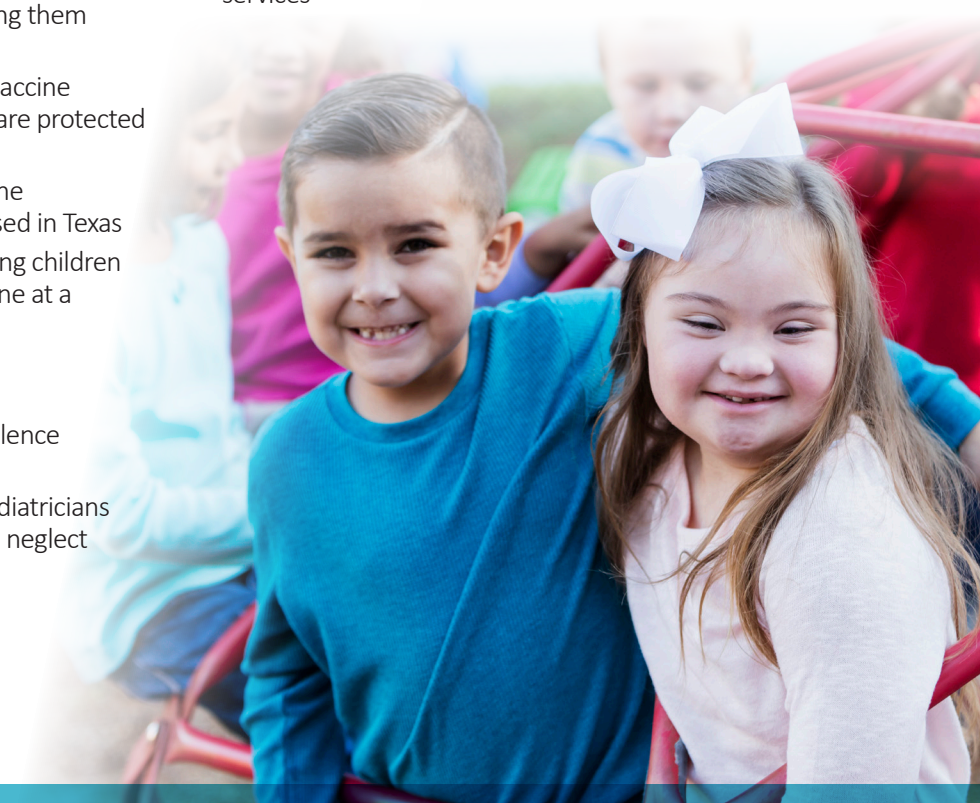
- Clarify current state statute to ensure children sit rear facing in their car seat until age 2
- Enhance current child access laws to ensure families are keeping firearms out of the hands of children and teens

CONTINUE TO INVEST IN THE MEDICAL EDUCATION PIPELINE

- Maintain funding for the Statewide Preceptorship Program to encourage more students to practice in primary care fields including pediatrics

SUPPORT PEDIATRIC PRACTICE ADOPTION OF TELEMEDICINE

- Further support the implementation of telemedicine modalities by ensuring payment parity with in-person services



Texas Pediatric Society

401 W 15th Suite 682 • Austin, TX 78701
512.370.1516 • www.txped.org