



Minnesota Chapter

**Minnesota Chapter of the  
American Academy of  
Pediatrics**

1043 Grand Ave. #544  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
651-402-2056  
651-699-7798 (fax)  
www.mnaap.org  
cairns@mnaap.org

**AAP Headquarters**

141 Northwest Point Blvd.  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
Phone: 847/434-4000  
Fax: 846/434-8000  
www.aap.org

Dear [Name],

As pediatricians and members of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we are writing to oppose the American Health Care Act. We urge you to preserve the gains made in children's health care coverage and ensure this coverage is comprehensive, affordable and accessible for children and families.

The coverage rate among children in the United States is at a historic high: 95 percent. This progress was made possible by Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and the Affordable Care Act working together.

As pediatricians, we are deeply concerned with using per capita caps to fund the Medicaid program, which would shift costs to states and likely lead to enrollment cuts, meaning less coverage for those who need it most: children with special health care needs and low-income families.

In Minnesota, 506,000 children are afforded access to healthcare through Medicaid and CHIP programs. An additional 8,000 children have access through the ACA. Any cuts to these programs would impact healthcare access for these children.

Children are not just little adults; they have unique health needs. Access to affordable, high-quality health coverage is essential to keeping children of all ages healthy. Through Medicaid, children are guaranteed benefits that cover a comprehensive array of medically necessary services, including developmental, vision and hearing screenings.

Any efforts that rollback this progress will increase the cost of insurance, increase the number of uninsured and jeopardize children's health.

Please keep the needs of America's children at the forefront as you consider changes to our health care system. I urge you to reconsider moving forward with proposals that will move health coverage for children backward.

Thank you for all you do for children in our state and across the country.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Kiragu".

Andrew Kiragu, MD, FAAP  
President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics