

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



AAP Headquarters

141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1019
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

Reply to

Department of Federal Affairs

Homer Building, Suite 400 N
601 13th St NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202/347-8600
Fax: 202/393-6137
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

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August 14, 2014

The Honorable Phil Gingrey
U.S. House of Representatives
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
U.S. House of Representatives
4270 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Gingrey and Green:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of more than 62,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I write to thank you both for introducing the *Antibiotic Development to Advance patient Treatment (ADAPT) Act* (H.R. 3742).

Antimicrobial resistance is a growing public health crisis with serious implications for child health. The burden of antimicrobial-resistant disease in children is compounded by the already limited treatment options available to children. When antibiotics known to be safe and effective in children fail, health care providers are forced to use other treatment options that may be more toxic or less effective. Antimicrobial-resistant infections place a significant burden on ill children, their families, and the health care system as a whole – they are often more costly to treat, prolong health care use, and increase morbidity and mortality.

The *ADAPT Act* would establish a crucial approval pathway to speed patient access to new antibacterial drugs and biological products for use in a limited population of patients in order to address antimicrobial resistance. It is often not feasible to conduct a large clinical trial for these drugs because of the small population on which they will be used. This legislation will allow drugs with smaller clinical trials to be approved for serious or life-threatening infections. The legislation also requires that these drugs be labeled in a way that states that they are approved for a limited population.

The AAP supports the *ADAPT Act* as an important step toward combating antimicrobial resistance. This legislation is important when considering the unique needs and vulnerabilities of special and limited pediatric populations and the proper use of antibiotics. If the AAP can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Johnson in our Washington, D.C. office at 202/347-8600 or pjohnson@aap.org.

Sincerely,

James M. Perrin, M.D., FAAP
President

JMP/arp