

November 14, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Barton
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sens. Grassley and Bennet and Reps. Barton and Castor:

As national organizations committed to children's health, we are writing to express our support for S. 428 and H.R. 3325, The Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act of 2017 (ACE Kids Act). We thank you for your leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation to improve care in Medicaid for children with complex medical conditions.

Children with complex medical conditions have chronic life-limiting illnesses and disabilities, and often see six or more specialists and a dozen or more physicians. Under the current Medicaid system, parents of children with multiple, life-threatening disabilities struggle to coordinate the complex care of their kids, which often requires travelling to out-of-state providers. The ACE Kids Act works to create a patient-centered, pediatric-focused delivery system for this unique population of children. It is an important step in fixing the current fragmented system for children with complex medical conditions, ensuring ready access to care and reducing the burden on their families.

Under the ACE Kids Act, specially-designed health homes created for children with complex medical conditions would employ national quality standards and coordinate care — both essential to improving overall quality of care. These health homes will include the full range of acute, post-acute and primary care providers, and will focus on outpatient care to ensure children get the care that they need in the most appropriate setting closest to home while reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits. The ACE Kids Act — which is voluntary for states, families and providers — will also help families access the array of outpatient and community services and supports needed by these children.

Providing children with complex medical conditions enrolled in Medicaid the best possible care is a national challenge, and the ACE Kids Act will bring us closer to ensuring these vulnerable children receive the care they need. We are pleased to support the ACE Kids Act, and we look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation this year.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

American College of Cardiology

American College of Surgeons

American Heart Association

American Psychological Association

American Society of Echocardiography

American Thoracic Society

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Autism Society of America

Autism Speaks

ChildServe

Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy

Children's Hospital Association

Epilepsy Foundation

Family Voices

Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne

International Pediatric Rehabilitation Collaborative

March of Dimes

Mended Little Hearts

MomsRising

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Down Syndrome Society

Pediatric Congenital Heart Association

Tricare for Kids