Attachment Q

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Colorado Chapter

Colorado Chapter
4582 South Ulster Street, Suite 201
Denver, CO 80237
Phone: 303-770-6048
Fax: 303-771-2550
www.coloradoaap.org

Colorado Chapter Executive Committee

President
Kathryn Wells, MD, FAAP
2929 West 10th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204

Vice President
Joe Craig, MD, FAAP
7600 Shaffer Pkwy
Littleton, CO 80127

Secretary
Steven Perry, MD
4900 East Kentucky
Denver, CO 80246

Treasurer
Barb Zind, MD, FAAP
319 Quail
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Chapter Executive Director
Carol Goddard
4582 South Ulster Street, Suite 201
Denver, CO 80237

Immediate Past President
Steve Federico, MD, FAAP
1001 Yosemite Street
Suite 200 MC 1916
Denver, CO 80220

April 25, 2013

Members of the House Health, Insurance and Environment Committee,

The Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (CO-AAP) is pleased to support SB 13-222, Concerning Improving Access to Childhood Immunizations. The bill is a thoughtful approach to a complex issue. As the professional association for the state's pediatricians, the CO-AAP carefully considered the proposed legislation, and the problem it addresses. Pediatricians deliver a large number of the state's childhood immunizations across the state in a variety of settings. Given the manner in which childhood immunizations are purchased, the system presents administrative and financial challenges for some pediatric practices. Of utmost importance to the state's pediatricians is ensuring access to routine childhood immunizations, which have proven to be both a safe and efficacious way to prevent disease.

Support for SB 13-222 is based on three main premises:

- The proposed bill will create a task force with representation from a broad array of stakeholders to discuss issues related to the purchase, delivery and administration of childhood vaccines, specifically focusing on gaps in access that exist in some communities.
- The proposed bill will specifically direct the stakeholder group to examine where and why some children in Colorado have difficulty accessing vaccines; allow members of the provider community with successful models for vaccine purchasing and delivery to share their knowledge with others; and allow the state to fund recommendations that would improve access to childhood immunizations.
- The proposed bill is permissive and will not mandate that any health care provider change the way they currently purchase and administer childhood vaccines, if a new purchasing model is recommended by the stakeholder group and adopted by the Board of Health.

Moving forward, involvement from the pediatric community is essential and important to the success of this effort, as together we can create a solution unique to Colorado's needs. The CO-AAP looks forward to a robust and thoughtful stakeholder process, which ultimately will improve access to vaccines for Colorado's children.