

# Minnesota Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MINNESOTA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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April 18, 2024

Chair Melissa Wiklund  
Health and Human Services Committee  
5 University Ave W,  
St. Paul, MN 55103

Chair Wiklund,

On behalf of the over 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), I am writing to thank you for including the following items in SF 4699.

MNAAP supports permitting child care centers to require attendees be fully vaccinated, unless a medical exemption has been issued. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the proportion of U.S. kindergartners receiving state-required vaccines for illnesses such as polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and diphtheria, declined from 95% to approximately 93% nationwide. Minnesota's kindergartners have even lower immunization rates, only 89%, according to a report from the Minnesota Department of Health from the 2022-2023 school year. This language will increase rates of fully vaccinated children in Minnesota.

MNAAP also supports a variety of mandated coverage items in the bill. These include extending required coverage for services in prenatal, delivery, and postpartum periods for a mother and infant and extends the duration of postpartum care to a year and prohibits cost sharing for all required services associated with this care. Additionally, MNAAP supports mandating insurance plans to provide coverage of abortion services and gender-affirming care.

MNAAP is deeply disappointed that there was no language to prohibit prior authorization for services where a delay poses a danger to patient health. This includes treatments for substance-use disorder, outpatient mental health care, cancer care, and chronic conditions, pediatric hospice care, and those delivered through a neonatal abstinence program. When these services are delayed, severe negative patient experiences occur and often result in worse health outcomes. MNAAP hopes that you will strongly consider revisions to include these important items in SF 4699.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Crespo".

Eileen Crespo, MD, FAAP  
President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics