

# Minnesota Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics



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

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Health and Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave West  
St Paul, MN 55103

Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the over 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing in strong support of SF1402.

This legislation will increase outpatient reimbursement rates for medical assistance (MA) to 100% of Medicare. MA currently reimburses about 60-70% of Medicare, and only about 30% of what commercial insurers pay. Minnesota's current payment levels rank 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation. The proposed rate increase would improve that rank to sixth in the nation. With more and more Minnesotans relying on MA for coverage, now is more important than ever to increase these rates and ensure those in every corner of the state have access to care.

If rates remain at the current level, we risk seeing more services cut and access to care in traditionally underserved and rural communities become more difficult. In the past, when we see services reduced, often due to low rates, they are often in primary care, obstetric, and pediatric services. These are services we need to make more accessible, not less accessible, to Minnesotans

Lastly, Minnesota already has some of the worst healthcare disparities in the country. Increasing these rates will directly improve health equity in Minnesota – a top legislative priority for our chapter.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on SF1402. I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

*Katie Smentek*

Katie Smentek, MD  
President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics