

# American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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**Press Statement on  
Legislation to Reauthorize Emergency Medical Services for Kids  
By  
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“In recognition of National Emergency Medical Services for Children Day, members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives made an important commitment today to improve emergency care for America's children by introducing legislation to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), representing 60,000 pediatricians, commends Sens. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Reps. Jim Matheson (D-UT), Peter King (R-NY), and Lois Capps (D-CA) for introducing the “Wakefield Act.” The AAP-backed legislation will reauthorize EMSC for five years.

“EMSC is the only federal program devoted to improving emergency care for children. Created in 1984, EMSC was established after data and clinical experience showed major gaps between adult and pediatric emergency care at all levels. The program has driven fundamental changes in America's emergency medical system and brought vital resources and attention to a neglected population. In the 22 years since it was established, child injury death rates have dropped 40 percent.

“The Institute of Medicine acknowledged the accomplishments of the EMSC program in its 2006 report on the future of emergency care in the United States. They recommended a continued commitment to the program, and a doubling of the EMSC budget to promote continued progress for children's emergency care. The AAP agrees.

“America’s children deserve no less than the best emergency care our country has to offer. Congress must act quickly to pass this legislation, and fully fund the EMSC program.”

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*The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical subspecialists dedicated to the health, safety and well being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.*