

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

For Immediate Release

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Press Statement

on

HOUSE PASSAGE OF THE WAKEFIELD ACT (H.R. 479)

By David T. Tayloe Jr., MD, FAAP, president, American Academy of Pediatrics

“The American Academy of Pediatrics applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for its passage of H.R. 479, the Wakefield Act, which would reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program for 5 years. The Academy recognizes Reps. Jim Matheson (D-UT), Peter King (R-NY), Lois Capps (D-CA), and Dave Reichert (R-WA) for their tireless work championing this program.

“The Wakefield Act will ensure that all children and adolescents, no matter where they live, attend school, or travel, receive appropriate care in a health emergency. Since its establishment, EMSC Partnership Grants have gone to every state's EMS Office to help underwrite efforts on pediatric emergency care. It is no coincidence that since the EMSC program was established, death rates due to pediatric injury have dropped by an astounding 40 percent.

“In 2009, the EMSC program marks its 25th anniversary of driving fundamental changes in the nation's emergency medical system to improve emergency care for children. Millions of children and their families should not have to wait one more day for this long-overdue legislation.

“The House of Representatives invested in the future of this country yesterday in the passage of the EMSC reauthorization, and we urge the Senate to act swiftly and decisively to do the same.”

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