LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ACTIVITY

Goal: Learning “the role of the pediatrician in the legislative process” is one part of the community experience required by the ACGME. It is considered part of the systems based practice competency. In this activity, you should learn about federal and state government: the players and the issues. Once you know the people to contact to voice your opinion and what current issues need our attention as pediatricians, then you will do so!

PART I: LEARN THE PLAYERS INVOLVED
Find out the names and how to contact the following people:
A. Federal Level
1. the senators for Florida
2. your Congressmen (based on your home address)
3. Congressmen for All Children’s Hospital
4. Congressmen for Tampa General Hospital.
B. State Level
1. your representatives and senators (based on your home address)
2. representatives and senators for All Children’s Hospital
3. representatives and senators for Tampa General Hospital

HELPFUL INFORMATION:
1. You need your home zip code, preferably with the last four digits, although can search without them.
2. All Children’s Hospital’s zip code is 33701-4816.
3. Tampa General Hospital’s zip code is 33606-3508.
4. Three important websites:
   - www.flsenate.gov
   - www.myfloridahouse.gov
   - www.congress.org
5. If you prefer, you can search by going through the American Academy of Pediatrics’ website, but you must be a member and have your AAP ID number so you can access their Members Only Channel.
6. You can also look for issues affecting Florida only, by visiting the Florida Chapter of the AAP’s website at www.fcaap.org. Please be aware that the link is sometimes slow.

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PART II: PICK AN ISSUE, AND MAKE YOUR VOICE BE HEARD
2. Pick an issue related to pediatrics (examples include obesity, literacy, vaccines, Medicaid funding…).
3. If you do not know enough about the issue to speak comfortably to a legislator about it, do some research on it.
4. When you are comfortable with the topic and the bills related to it, pick a way to make your interest known—write a letter (sample ones often available), call your senators and/or representatives, make an appointment to speak in person to local representatives, etc.

PART III: HELP FELLOW RESIDENTS MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD
1. Email your colleagues with either the sample letter you wrote, the phone numbers, fax numbers, and issue information so they can also contact their legislators as well.

PART IV: GET CREDIT FOR THIS ACTIVITY
Print the letter you sent, or a copy of the email, or time and date and contact information of phone calls you made, etc. to be included in your advocacy portfolio.