

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, 2023

Chair Aisha Gomez
House Taxes Committee
453 State Office Building
100 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Gomez and Members of the House Taxes Committee,

On behalf of more than 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), I am writing to thank you for including a Minnesota Child Tax Credit in the House Omnibus Tax Bill.

As extensively researched and clearly stated by the American Academy of Pediatrics, poverty is an important social determinant of health and contributes to child health disparities. Children who experience poverty, particularly during early life or for an extended period, are at risk of a host of adverse health and developmental outcomes through their life course. Poverty has a profound effect on specific circumstances, such as birth weight, infant mortality, language development, chronic illness, environmental exposure, nutrition, and injury. Child poverty also influences genomic function and brain development by exposure to toxic stress, a condition characterized by “excessive or prolonged activation of the physiologic stress response systems in the absence of the buffering protection afforded by stable, responsive relationships.” Children living in poverty are at increased risk of difficulties with self-regulation and executive function, such as inattention, impulsivity, defiance, and poor peer relationships. Poverty can also make parenting difficult, especially in the context of concerns about inadequate food, energy, transportation, and housing.

A robust Child Tax Credit is a direct and highly effective way of alleviating child poverty and, therefore, of promoting optimal health for all children in Minnesota. On behalf of our members and patients across the state, thank you again for including this important provision in the Omnibus Tax Bill.

Sincerely,

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