

# Arizona Chapter

INCORPORATED IN ARIZONA

American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Releases State Child Health Policy Agenda for 2022 and Beyond

*AzAAP's "Blueprint for Children" includes road map to address children's physical, emotional and behavioral health, the impacts of the pandemic on children, supporting families providing kinship foster care, and protecting LGBTQ youth*

FULL "BLUEPRINT FOR CHILDREN" AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

**PHOENIX, AZ** – Today, the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AzAAP) released their "[Blueprint for Children](#)," which outlines the AzAAP's advocacy goals and policy agenda for 2022 and beyond. The blueprint addresses key issues facing Arizonan children, including:

- The COVID-19 Pandemic
- Childhood Immunizations
- Emotional and Behavioral Health
- Marijuana Exposure
- Nicotine Use by Children and Teens
- LGBTQ Youth
- Immigrant Children
- Gun Violence
- Child Welfare

"Just like so many of the families we care for, it has been a challenging time for Arizona pediatricians. Advocating for children continues to be the most vital work we can do," **said Dr. Jason Vargas, MD, FAAP, President of AzAAP.**" Children continue to face many challenges in 2022, not the least of which are an ongoing pandemic, the mental health crisis it has exacerbated, and the numerous attacks on transgender youth and their right to receive evidence-based care. Pediatricians across the state will continue to use every tool at our disposal to advocate on behalf of all children, teens, and

young adults. We look forward to working alongside our patients and partners to promote healthy children, secure families, and strong communities.”

In addition to serving as a guideline for pediatrician advocates, the Blueprint for Children was also sent to all members of the Arizona state legislature. This comes as elected leaders in Arizona and across the country grapple with several issues pertaining to children’s health, including bills impacting the health of LGBTQ youth and policies addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. AzAAP is actively engaged on these issues and several others and will use the newly released blueprint as a guiding document for their advocacy.

**About the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**

*The Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AzAAP) is committed to improving the health of Arizona children and supporting the pediatric professionals who care for them. AzAAP is the state's leading professional pediatric tax-exempt charitable organization dedicated to promoting the physical, emotional, behavioral, and social health and well-being of every Arizona child. Representing over 1,100 health care professionals - including pediatricians, pediatric sub-specialists, nurses, residents, medical students, dentists, academicians, hospital administrators and other allied health professionals - AzAAP aspires to the highest standards in providing the latest evidence-based and current recommended guidelines to its members.*

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