



Illinois Chapter

To Whom It May Concern:

The Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics declares its strong support for legislation that would repeal the requirement that students with HIV be reported, by name, to school principals and other school personnel. As an organization whose mission is to promote the right of all children to live happy, safe, and healthy lives, to ensure children receive quality medical care from pediatricians we believe strongly that the repeal of this law will improve the health and well-being of all children in schools.

It is time for Illinois law to recognize the medical reality that children living with HIV can and do attend school and do not place themselves or others at significant risk. Illinois law should no longer treat children with HIV as infectious; we should treat them just as we treat children with any other condition—with compassion.

As pediatricians, we believe that the decision to notify the school of any medical condition, including HIV, based on the child's medical condition should be left up to parents and their child's physician, not an outdated mandate in Illinois law. If a child needs special accommodations during the school day, that should be arranged by confidential communication with school officials.

The statewide use of universal precautions in schools protects both students and school staff from infections. All schools must annually train all personnel to follow universal precautions. Supplies such as medical gloves are widely available. Universal precautions have become wide-spread, common-sense practices that successfully prevent disease transmission.

Finally, as physicians, we are alarmed that the principal HIV notification law may deter teens from being tested for HIV due to confidentiality concerns. HIV cases increased in Illinois 30% among teens, 13-19 years old, between 2000 and 2005. Public policy in Illinois should encourage testing among our youth, not drive them away because of an antiquated law.

If you have any questions or would like additional information on the organization's position, please contact the ICAAP office at 312/733-1026, ext 202 or info@illinoisAAP.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Irwin Benuck".

Irwin Benuck, MD, PhD
President, Illinois Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP)

Executive Committee

President

Irwin Benuck, MD, PhD, FAAP
Evanston, IL
847/869-4300 (O)
847/869-4330 (F)

President-elect

Dennis L. Vickers, MD, MPH, FAAP
Chicago, IL
773/257-6300 (O)

Secretary

Paula Kienberger Jaudes, MD, FAAP
Chicago, IL
773/753-8640

Treasurer

Ben Kaye, MD, FAAP
Chicago, IL
773/348-8300 (O)
773/348-7163 (F)

Immediate Past President

Edward Pont, MD, FAAP
Elmhurst, IL
630/832-3100 (O)
630/832-1604 (F)

Members

Helen Binns, MD, MPH, FAAP
Chicago, IL

Ann Cutler, MD, FAAP
Chicago, IL

Kim Glow, MD, FAAP
Champaign, IL

Kay L. Saving, MD, FAAP
Peoria, IL

Beth Volin, MD, FAAP
Chicago, IL

Karen Walker, MD, FAAP
Oak Park, IL

Academic Medical Center Liaison
Thomas Green, MD, FAAP
Children's Memorial Hospital
Chicago, IL

Executive Director

Scott G. Allen
312/733-1026, ext 202 (O)
312/733-1791 (F)
sallen@illinoisAAP.com