

As a member of the Med-Peds community, I wanted to make you aware of how federal health care reform will impact our specialty and ask you to get involved.

A common theme in the legislation is to make changes that benefit primary care specialties. Unfortunately, combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics is not listed as a primary care specialty, while internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, geriatric medicine, and obstetrics-gynecology are included.

There are potential implications to this, not limited to differential reimbursements to Med-Peds primary care physicians, difficulty of Med-Peds residents to apply to federal loan forgiveness programs, and difficulty of Med-Peds Program Directors to apply for certain training grants.

You will find a draft letter that we encourage you to immediately send via mail or fax to your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senator. You can find their contact information using your zip code at:

www.house.gov <<http://www.house.gov>>
www.senate.gov <<http://www.senate.gov>>

Also note that the location of your office or hospital, may give you access to a different Representative or Senator than where you currently reside, so feel free to send this to other officials who may have jurisdiction in your area.

This is time sensitive so your attention to this is greatly appreciated. I've also attached the committees that appear to have major oversight in developing and structuring health care reform. If one of these committee members, is within your congressional areas, please be sure to let your Representative or Senator know that you are member of his/her district and urge them to support the listing of Med-Peds as a primary care area.

For those of you attending the AAP NCE in October, we are planning a Hill Visit on October 19th. If you would like to participate, please let me know and I will pass on the necessary information to you.

Sincerely,

Tommy Cross, M.D., FAAP, FACP
Chair, Med-Peds Section

[Date]

The Honorable [Full Name]
United States [Senate/House of Representatives]
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator/Representative [Last Name]:

As [position/title] at [institution] [, and a constituent in your district], I urge you to support the inclusion of combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics as a primary care specialty in any proposed federal legislation.

Physicians trained in combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics (Med-Peds) are fully qualified as general internists and general pediatricians, so should be included as a primary care specialty. Currently there are approximately 1400 Med-Peds residents in training and approximately 7000 Med-Peds physicians in practice. In 2007, **55% of graduates of Med-Peds graduates practice primary care** and on average spend 75% of their time in direct patient care activities. In addition, **over 90% of Med-Peds trained physicians take care of children and adults.** Med-Peds trained physicians can be found in all 50 states practicing in rural to urban areas.

Combined Med-Peds residency programs have existed since 1967 and train physicians who care for Americans across the entire lifespan, from newborns to the elderly. These residents train in both Internal Medicine and Pediatrics in a four-year long residency and are considered both internists and pediatricians. The additional fourth year of training in order to be eligible to obtain Board Certification in both specialties was supported in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 that allowed Graduate Medical Education payment to institutions that had combined training programs in two primary care disciplines. Since 2006, the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has listed Med-Peds programs as accredited in addition to internal medicine and pediatrics programs.

Children with chronic illnesses (e.g. congenital heart disease, diabetes) are living longer than in the past with approximately 500,000 children with at least one chronic condition turning 18 every year. **The intensive training in both medical specialties allows Med-Peds physicians to care for this population so they do not lose their primary care provider** as they age out of pediatric care. Furthermore, since Med-Peds trained physicians are board eligible in both Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, approximately 20% Med-Peds graduates choose to pursue subspecialty training in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, or both. This additional training allows these subspecialty trained physicians to provide care to children with chronic illnesses as they get older without leaving their subspecialty provider.

The United States is facing a physician shortage, and the demand for physicians will increase far more rapidly than the supply under current standards. The physician population most greatly affected by this shortage is primary care physicians. Internal medicine and pediatrics are already listed as primary care specialties. **Physicians trained in Med-Peds are another piece of the solution to the primary care crisis.**

Since Med-Peds encompasses training in two primary care disciplines and enables practice across the age spectrum and to children and adults with chronic illnesses, I encourage you to include combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics as a primary care specialty to any proposed federal legislation. Specific areas to consider include the reauthorization of Title VII of the Public Health Service Act, funding for the National Health Service Corps, graduate medical education funding, and the redistribution of unused residency positions.

Again, thank you for considering this request. Please contact me at [phone] or [email] if you have any questions, would like to discuss this further, or if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Senate Finance Committee

Democrats	REPUBLICANS
<u>MAX BAUCUS, MT</u> <u>JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, WV</u> <u>KENT CONRAD, ND</u> <u>JEFF BINGAMAN, NM</u> <u>JOHN F. KERRY, MA</u> <u>BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, AR</u> <u>RON WYDEN, OR</u> <u>CHARLES E. SCHUMER, NY</u> <u>DEBBIE STABENOW, MI</u> <u>MARIA CANTWELL, WA</u> <u>BILL NELSON, FL</u> <u>ROBERT MENENDEZ, NJ</u> <u>THOMAS CARPER, DE</u>	<u>CHUCK GRASSLEY, IA</u> <u>ORRIN G. HATCH, UT</u> <u>OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, ME</u> <u>JON KYL, AZ</u> <u>JIM BUNNING, KY</u> <u>MIKE CRAPO, ID</u> <u>PAT ROBERTS, KS</u> <u>JOHN ENSIGN, NV</u> <u>MIKE ENZI, WY</u> <u>JOHN CORNYN, TX</u>

House Ways and Means Committee

Democrats	Republicans
<u>Charles B. Rangel</u> , NY <i>Chairman</i> <u>Fortney Pete Stark</u> , CA <u>Sander M. Levin</u> , MI <u>Jim McDermott</u> , WA <u>John Lewis</u> , GA <u>Richard E. Neal</u> , MA <u>John S. Tanner</u> , TN <u>Xavier Becerra</u> , CA <u>Lloyd Doggett</u> , TX <u>Earl Pomeroy</u> , ND <u>Mike Thompson</u> , CA <u>John B. Larson</u> , CT <u>Earl Blumenauer</u> , OR <u>Ron Kind</u> , WI <u>Bill Pascrell Jr.</u> , NJ	<u>Dave Camp</u> , MI <u>Wally Herger</u> , CA <u>Sam Johnson</u> , TX <u>Kevin Brady</u> , TX <u>Paul Ryan</u> , WI <u>Eric Cantor</u> , VA <u>John Linder</u> , GA <u>Devin Nunes</u> , CA <u>Pat Tiberi</u> , OH <u>Ginny Brown-Waite</u> , FL <u>Geoff Davis</u> , KY <u>Dave G. Reichert</u> , WA <u>Charles W. Boustany Jr.</u> , LA <u>Dean Heller</u> , NV <u>Peter J. Roskam</u> , IL

<u>Shelley Berkley</u> , NV	
<u>Joseph Crowley</u> , NY	
<u>Chris Van Hollen</u> , MD	
<u>Kendrick Meek</u> , FL	
<u>Allyson Y. Schwartz</u> , PA	
<u>Artur Davis</u> , AL	
<u>Danny K. Davis</u> , IL	
<u>Bob Etheridge</u> , NC	
<u>Linda T. Sanchez</u> , CA	
<u>Brian Higgins</u> , NY	
<u>John A. Yarmuth</u> , KY	

House Energy and Commerce Committee

Democrats

Henry A. Waxman, CA, Chair
John D. Dingell, MI, Chair Emeritus
Edward J. Markey, MA
Rick Boucher, VA
Frank Pallone, Jr., NJ
Bart Gordon, TN
Bobby L. Rush, IL
Anna G. Eshoo, CA
Bart Stupak, MI
Eliot L. Engel, NY
Gene Green, TX
Diana DeGette, CO, Vice Chair
Lois Capps, CA
Mike Doyle, PA
Jane Harman, CA
Jan Schakowsky, IL
Charles A. Gonzalez, TX
Jay Inslee, WA
Tammy Baldwin, WI
Mike Ross, AR

Republicans

Joe Barton, TX, Ranking Member
Ralph M. Hall, TX
Fred Upton, MI
Cliff Stearns, FL
Nathan Deal, GA
Ed Whitfield, KY
John Shimkus, IL
John B. Shadegg, AZ
Roy Blunt, MO
Steve Buyer, IN
George Radanovich, CA
Joseph R. Pitts, PA
Mary Bono Mack, CA
Greg Walden, OR
Lee Terry, NE
Mike Rogers, MI
Sue Wilkins Myrick, NC
John Sullivan, OK
Tim Murphy, PA
Michael C. Burgess, TX

Anthony D. Weiner, NY	Marsha Blackburn, TN
Jim Matheson, UT	Phil Gingrey, GA
G.K. Butterfield, NC	Steve Scalise, LA
Charlie Melancon, LA	
John Barrow, GA	
Baron P. Hill, IN	
Doris O. Matsui, CA	
Donna M. Christensen, VI	
Kathy Castor, FL	
John P. Sarbanes, MD	
Christopher S. Murphy, CT	
Zachary T. Space, OH	
Jerry McNerney, CA	
Betty Sutton, OH	
Bruce L. Braley, IA	
Peter Welch, VT	

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

<u>Democrats by Rank</u>	<u>Republicans by Rank</u>
<u>Tom Harkin (IA)</u>	<u>Michael B. Enzi (WY)</u>
<u>Christopher Dodd (CT)</u>	<u>Judd Gregg (NH)</u>
<u>Barbara A. Mikulski (MD)</u>	<u>Lamar Alexander (TN)</u>
<u>Jeff Bingaman (NM)</u>	<u>Richard Burr (NC)</u>
<u>Patty Murray (WA)</u>	<u>Johnny Isakson (GA)</u>
<u>Jack Reed (RI)</u>	<u>John McCain (AZ)</u>
<u>Bernard Sanders (I) (VT)</u>	<u>Orrin G. Hatch (UT)</u>
<u>Sherrod Brown (OH)</u>	<u>Lisa Murkowski (AK)</u>
<u>Robert P. Casey, Jr. (PA)</u>	<u>Tom Coburn, M.D. (OK)</u>
<u>Kay Hagan (NC)</u>	<u>Pat Roberts (KS)</u>
<u>Jeff Merkley (OR)</u>	
<u>Al Franken (MN)</u>	