

**AAP Headquarters**

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**Reply to****AAP Washington Office**

601 13th St NW, Suite 400N  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: 202/347-8600  
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

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Joseph L. Wright, MD, FAAP

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2102 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David McKinley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2239 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Cartwright and McKinley:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical subspecialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I would like to share our support for the *Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act*.

Every child in the United States has the right to a free, appropriate public education, including children who are visually and/or hearing-impaired. Research has demonstrated that deaf or hard of hearing, visually impaired, or deaf-blind children who are identified and connected to appropriate early intervention services and receive specialized instruction achieve higher educational outcomes. Unfortunately, the educational experiences of these students often fall short of that which is afforded to their peers due to the lack of appropriate services or resources necessary to meet their needs. It can also be difficult to properly track and identify this population due to inconsistencies in disability category classification.

Therefore, the Academy supports the goal of the *Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act* to ensure that visual and hearing-impaired students receive the best education possible. Specifically, the legislation requires states to identify and evaluate children who are visually and hearing impaired, including those with additional disabilities, so that appropriate services can be delivered by trained personnel. To assist families and educators, it requires review and updates to U.S. Department of Education policy guidance on special education and related services for deaf and hard of hearing students. The legislation also establishes the Anne Sullivan Macy Center of Vision Loss and Educational Excellence within the U.S. Department of Education as a national resource to disseminate evidence-based practices in the education of students with visual impairment.

The AAP appreciates your commitment to strengthening educational opportunities for students who are visually or hearing-impaired and we are pleased to support the *Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act*. We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the health and well-being of our nation's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Savio Beers".

Lee Savio Beers, MD, FAAP  
President

LSB/new

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April 14, 2021

The Honorable Ed Markey  
United States Senate  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Markey and Capito:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical subspecialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I would like to share our support for the *Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act*.

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Lee Savio Beers, MD, FAAP  
President

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