

# Maine Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MAINE

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## Executive Committee

President

Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP

Vice President

Brian Youth, MD, FAAP

Treasurer

Christopher Motyl, DO, FAAP

Secretary

Genevieve Whiting, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

Deborah Q. Hagler, MD, MPH,  
FAAP

## Board of Directors

Mahmuda Ahmed, MD, FAAP

Joseph Anderson, DO, FAAP

Amy Buczkowski, MD, FAAP

Melissa Burch, MD, FAAP

Adrienne Carmack, MD, FAAP

Gabriel Civiello, MD, FAAP

Anne Coates, MD, FAAP

Alyssa Goodwin, MD

Dan Hale, MD, FAAP

Riley Heroux\*\*

Jennifer Jewell, MD, MS, FAAP

Stephanie Joy, MD, FAAP

Emily Keller, MD, FAAP

Alton Kremer, MD, PhD, FAAP

Michele Labotz, MD, FAAP

Maria Libertin, MD\*

Lawrence Losey, MD, FAAP

Valerie O'Hara, DO, FAAP

Gita Rao, MD, FAAP

Sydney Sewall MD, MPH, FAAP

Austin Wheeler Steward\*\*

Jeffrey Stone, DO, FAAP

Mary Tedesco-Schneck, PhD, NP

Andrea Tracy, MD, FAAP

Aaron Wallace, MD\*

\*Resident Board Reps

\*\*Medical Student  
Representatives

## Staff

Dee Kerry, BS Ed

Executive Director

Emily Belanger, RN, BSN

Admin & Project Coordinator

30 Association Drive, Box 190

Manchester, ME 04351

office: 207-480-4185

[www.maineaap.org](http://www.maineaap.org)

## TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF

### LD 1726: An Act to Build Maine's Economy by Supporting Child Care for Working Families

Good day, Senator Rafferty and Representative Brennan, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

My name is Gretchen Pianka. I am a resident of Brunswick and an active member of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

As an expert in resilience building for children and families and a pediatrician who has practiced in Maine for almost 20 years, it is clear to me that this initiative, which supports quality childcare for working families, will also help those families foster resilience and decrease the long-term impact of adversity.

All too often, when families are struggling, they are not able to access the supports and resources needed to address challenges. Child care is an essential service that provides supportive environments for children's early learning and healthy development. Child care is also an essential support for parents to be able to reliably work, so they can provide for the economic security of their families. Additionally, as noted in the newly released state's Child Safety and Family Well-being Plan, child care provides a protective factor for families, to counteract risks they may be experiencing to safety and stability.

Funding efforts that increase the availability of affordable, high-quality child care now will reduce the impact of the stress families are experiencing by buffering it with this critical protective factor. This has been proven to decrease the long-term mental health impact of childhood adversity and will increase the chance of a healthy future for all Maine's children and their families.