



June 2021

CPP highly encourages our members and all primary care physician practices to support **The Strengthening the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) Act of 2021**. This bipartisan bill addresses the drop in routine childhood vaccination rates due to the pandemic. The national American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) along with 25 other respected organizations sent a letter of support for the bill. This letter highlights the need to increase payment rates for services offered to vulnerable populations (low-income children, pregnant women, and families, children with special health care needs) to ensure they have access to affordable, quality care and support primary care practices that provide care to vulnerable populations and is fully supported by the CPP Board of Directors.

THE BILL INCLUDES:

- Increase Medicaid payment rates for immunization administration to at least Medicare rates for 2 years, with a federal funding increase to cover the costs for states
- Clarifies that VFC providers can charge and Medicaid must pay for CPT code **90461** for multicomponent vaccines (MMR, Pentacel, etc.)
- Extend VFC eligibility to all children enrolled in CHIP
- Allow underinsured children to receive VFC vaccines at any VFC provider (not just FQHCs or RHCs)

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- If you are an AAP member, please visit the AAP's federal advocacy page (<http://federaladvocacy.aap.org>) to contact your local representative in support of this bipartisan bill lead by Kim Schrier MD FAAP (D-WA), and co-sponsors John Joyce (R-PA), GK Butterfield (D-NC), and David McKinley (R-WV).
- If you are not an AAP member, you can either create an AAP user ID and follow the instructions above or reach out directly to your local representative (<https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>).

Full bill <https://downloads.aap.org/DOFA/HR2347%20Bill%20Text.pdf>

Joint letter of support <https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/advocacy/prevention/vaccines/LT-House-StrengtheningVaccinesChildrenProgramAct-041621.pdf>

Again, we highly encourage you to contact your representative to support this bill.

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