February 21, 2017

I am Sandra Carbonari, the immediate past president of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the current medical director. I have been a primary care pediatrician for over 30 years.

The mission of the American Academy of Pediatrics is to attain optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents and young adults. Pediatricians are trained specialists and experts on children’s health. We are fortunate to have outstanding, nationally and internationally recognized pediatricians in our state who have expertise in all areas of children’s health.

SB 764 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN’S HEALTH

The Connecticut Chapter of the AAP should be involved in any program established to evaluate the health of children throughout the state. Evaluation of health is quite complex. Accurate, relevant data about the prevalence of health issues is not always easy to find. And measuring the social determinants of health, such as poverty, and their effect on our children can be challenging. However, this is vital work; as scientists, we know that a problem must be identified before it can be studied and solved. Pediatricians should be active partners in any evaluation of children’s health in Connecticut.

SB 812 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AN BEHAVIORAL HELTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN


This document addresses many of the components of a comprehensive implementation plan for meeting the mental, emotional and behavioral health needs of all children in the state, including prevention, early identification, and treatment and stabilization. As professionals on the front lines serving children and families, pediatricians and child psychiatrists must have a strong voice in the development of strategies to prevent or reduce the long-term negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues on children in Connecticut.

We respectfully request that we are active participants from the very beginning of the development of any evaluation of the health of children in our state or the implementation of any program intended to meet the needs of these children.