



2019

AACAP-PAC
ANNUAL REPORT





Robert L. Hendren, DO
AACAP-PAC co-chair



What an AMAZING year for AACAP-PAC! Since our last annual PAC report, we had the 2018 mid-term elections where AACAP-PAC's voice was heard loud and clear. During the 2018 election cycle, AACAP-PAC supported 31 pro-child and adolescent psychiatry candidates who were up for election.

We are so proud to have helped elect these Members of Congress. We want to thank our colleagues on the AACAP-PAC board for their continued leadership. Most important, we want to thank you. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our contributors.



Warren Y.K. Ng, MD
AACAP-PAC co-chair

With all the challenges facing today's youth, the mission of AACAP-PAC to educate, support, and elect pro-child and adolescent psychiatry members of Congress has never been more important. As you may know, AACAP-PAC does not use any AACAP dues dollars to support political candidates, so your ongoing voluntary support is essential to our success.

With your continued support, we know AACAP-PAC will continue to soar to new heights. So please join us as a 2020 AACAP-PAC contributor and proudly wear your 2020 AACAP-PAC club pin to show your support for our PAC, our specialty, and our patients.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Hendren, DO
AACAP-PAC co-chair

Warren Y.K. Ng, MD
AACAP-PAC co-chair

MISSION STATEMENT To educate, support, and elect candidates for Congress who advocate for child and adolescent psychiatry and child mental health.

VISION STATEMENT Child and adolescent psychiatry will have strong relationships with legislators, so that Congress acts to improve child mental health.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 AACAP-PAC BOARD

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co-chair

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AACAP-PAC 101

WHAT IS AACAP-PAC?

AACAP-PAC is the political action committee of the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. AACAP-PAC helps to identify and elect candidates to Federal office who support child and adolescent psychiatry and are pro-children's mental health.

IS AACAP-PAC ETHICAL?

Political action committees are legal, ethical, transparent, and common. Contributions to political action committees are protected under the Constitution's First Amendment, up to established limits.

WHY DO WE NEED AACAP-PAC?

AACAP-PAC is the only political action committee fighting for the interests of child and adolescent psychiatrists and the patients that we serve. AACAP-PAC ensures that all child and adolescent psychiatrists have a single and unified political voice advocating on behalf of the subspecialty. Congress makes decisions every day that can positively or negatively impact your practice, your patients, and your research. AACAP-PAC is a vital tool, which allows AACAP to multiply our political effectiveness by increasing our visibility and presence in interacting with candidates for Congress.

WHAT IS AACAP-PAC'S MISSION?

AACAP-PAC's mission is to educate, support, and elect candidates for Congress who advocate for child and adolescent psychiatry and child mental health. Our vision is that child and adolescent psychiatry will have strong relationships with legislators, so that Congress acts to improve child mental health.

HOW DOES AACAP-PAC DECIDE WHOM TO SUPPORT?

AACAP-PAC is independent and non-partisan. All candidates are evaluated solely on their support for advancing children's mental health and child and adolescent psychiatry. Our volunteer Board of Directors, made up of AACAP members, evaluates each candidate we consider supporting and has final approval for all contributions.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT AACAP-PAC?

To learn more about AACAP-PAC, please call the AACAP-PAC team at (202) 587-9669 or email pac@aacap.org. You can visit www.aacap-pac.com to learn more about AACAP-PAC.



Rep. John Katko and Sid Shenoy, MD



Deb Koss, MD, and Rep. Raul Ruiz, MD

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WITH AACAP-PAC CO-CHAIRS, BOB HENDREN, DO,
AND WARREN NG, MD

Q WHY IS AACAP-PAC IMPORTANT FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRISTS AND THE SPECIALTY?

A AACAP-PAC serves as the political voice of child and adolescent psychiatrists on Capitol Hill. It allows our resources to be pulled together for the greatest good to highlight the value of mental health services, talk about our dire workforce shortage, and address the continuation of worthy Federal programs. AACAP-PAC allows our specialty to legally, ethically, and transparently work with Members of Congress to educate them on the critical mental health needs of our nation's children and adolescents.

Q SHOULD CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRISTS SUPPORT POLITICAL ACTION?

A Just because you are not engaged in politics, does not mean that political decisions do not affect you, your practice, and the patients that you serve. In Washington, there is a saying: "If you are not at the table, you are on the table." Decisions about your future are made in Washington whether you are there or not. AACAP-PAC is the only PAC dedicated to electing pro-child and adolescent psychiatry Members of Congress and the only PAC fighting for us and our patients on Capitol Hill. With Association member support, we can have a seat at the table.

Q AACAP-PAC IS RELATIVELY "SMALL" COMPARED TO OTHER PACS. ARE WE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

A Just by having a political action committee, we get the opportunity to attend many "meet and greets" and other events where we can educate and develop relationships with candidates without necessarily contributing to their campaigns. This is a benefit that all PACs enjoy, regardless of their size. Because AACAP-PAC is still smaller in size compared to larger political action committees, we must think more critically about the candidates we support and form deeper relationships with them. This works to our advantage in two ways. First, the candidates to whom we contribute gain a much better understanding of our issues, because we take more time to educate them and cultivate our relationship. Second, the contributions we do make are often more meaningful, specifically because we do not contribute to hundreds of candidates.

Q WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR RESIDENTS, FELLOWS, AND ECPs TO BE INVOLVED IN AACAP-PAC?

A Much like children are the future of our nation, residents, fellows, and ECPs are the future of child and adolescent psychiatry. The debates in Congress today will affect you and your patients well into the future. While changes to our field affect all child and adolescent psychiatrists, they are going to affect our younger members for much longer. By contributing to AACAP-PAC, you are adding your voice to the conversation and securing a better future for you and your patients.



Gaye Carlson, MD, and Rep. Ann Kuster

KEY FEDERAL PRIORITIES

PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN OUR SCHOOLS

One in five children experiences some type of mental health disorder that can cause significant challenges at home, at school, and in their community. Sadly, only 10 percent of them receive any treatment from a mental health professional.

One way to help ensure that children receive the mental health treatment they need is to meet students where they already are, in America's schools. Students spend one-third of their day at school, and mental illness will affect one in five of them. By co-locating appropriate mental health services in our nation's schools, we can help ensure that children better receive the timely mental health services that they need. Such a move would start to normalize the process of seeking mental health assistance and reduce the stigma of seeking mental health treatment. *AACAP-PAC is working to educate officials on the need for increased mental health services in our nation's schools.*

ADDRESSING CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY WORKFORCE SHORTAGE:

America's child and adolescent population currently numbers about 75 million, where mental illness impacts 1 in 5. Currently, 50% of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14, and 75% by age 24. To help these children and adolescents suffering from mental illness, America relies on about 8,300 child and adolescent psychiatrists, including the semi-retired. Estimates place the current need in the United States at over 30,000 practicing child and adolescent psychiatrists. Even in population centers where child and adolescent psychiatrists are present, the average wait time to see a child and adolescent psychiatrist is 7.5 weeks. In addition to the workforce shortage, physicians are not filling all available seats in specialized child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship training programs for a number of reasons, including staggering medical student debt. This puts the future of child and adolescent psychiatry in jeopardy.

In response to the workforce shortage, there are programs such as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), which is designed to address the shortages of physicians. This program provides medical education loan relief for physicians who have successfully completed general pediatrics or general psychiatry post-medical school residency training. As primary care pediatric subspecialists, child and adolescent psychiatrists are still in educational training for at least 2 years after their prerequisite general residency. Trainees, who go on to specialize in child and adolescent psychiatry have no meaningful and widely available opportunity to practice child and adolescent psychiatry through the current NHSC loan relief program, without leaving their specialized child training behind. *AACAP is working to change that and develop additional loan relief options for child and adolescent psychiatrists.*

AACAP-PAC

2019 FISCAL YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS (TOTAL \$60,500)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
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| Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA) | Congressional Hispanic Caucus BOLD PAC |
| Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) | |

2020 AACAP-PAC CLUB LEVELS:

Chairman's Circle	\$1,000+
(New this year!) Dollar-a-Day Club	\$365 – \$999
Silver Circle	\$100 – \$364
Fellow's Club (for those currently in a training program)	\$25+
AACAP-PAC Supporter	<\$100



AACAP-PAC 2018 ELECTION WIN RATE

AACAP-PAC supported **31** candidates in the 2018 election cycle

30 of the **31** AACAP-PAC supported candidates won their election

For a win rate of **97%**

AACAP-PAC

THANKS OUR 2019 CONTRIBUTORS*

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*As of September 27, 2019

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AACAP-PAC

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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