



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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**AACAP-PAC**

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY  
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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[AACAP-PAC.COM](http://AACAP-PAC.COM)

# DEAR AACAP COLLEAGUES:

As I reflect on the year and the continued challenges of the growing children's mental health crisis, I cannot think of a more important time to help elect members of Congress who prioritize children's mental health. It is a critical time for AACAP members to join me in supporting AACAP-PAC which continues to help elect Members of Congress and candidates for Congress willing to tackle issues important to our profession and patients.

Recently, we have seen Congressional actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that have had positive impacts on the lives of children and adolescents, such as sending millions of families the Advanced Child Tax Credits and the Economic Impact Payments. We have also seen new federal investments to integrate mental health into pediatric primary care through the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program. Federal investments to help hospitals and health centers expand telehealth services, broadband infrastructure investments to help reach patients in their home, and financial support for school-based mental health have also been signed into law this year. But more long-term federal investments in evidenced-based intervention and prevention measures are needed to expand mental health access and grow our workforce.

I want to personally thank each AACAP-PAC contributor. Financial contributions to AACAP-PAC help us to continue to raise important issues and ensure we are standing with other physician specialty societies and mental health colleagues and advocating for child and adolescent mental health priorities in every way possible. More candidates and current members of Congress better understand our priority issues because of you, and we must continue.



I am also grateful for the ongoing hard work of the AACAP-PAC Board, led by Bob Hendren, DO and Scott Palyo, MD. They work to ensure they always have the PAC's mission in mind. This year, the AACAP-PAC Board voted to bar supporting for the foreseeable future any member of Congress who failed to certify the November 2020 presidential election. As the AACAP-PAC Board said at the time, "In critical moments like these, good leadership truly matters." I believe this was the right decision and commend the Board's leadership.

Please join me in supporting AACAP-PAC during the 2022 PAC year, contributions can easily be made at [www.aacap-pac.org](http://www.aacap-pac.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabrielle A. Carlson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

**Gabrielle A. Carlson, MD**  
**AACAP President**

# 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 2021 AACAP-PAC BOARD

Bob Hendren, DO, co-chair, Scott Palyo, MD, co-chair, Edward Bender, DO, Lisa Durette, MD, George Fouras, MD, Karen Pierce, MD, Gabrielle Shapiro, MD, Aradhana Bela Sood, MD, Liza Wagner, MD.



The enthusiastic support for AACAP-PAC is remarkable considering initial skepticism in some to now a general realization of how member support provides AACAP to access, educate, support, and elect candidates for Congress who advocate for child and adolescent psychiatry and child mental health. Please keep your support coming.”

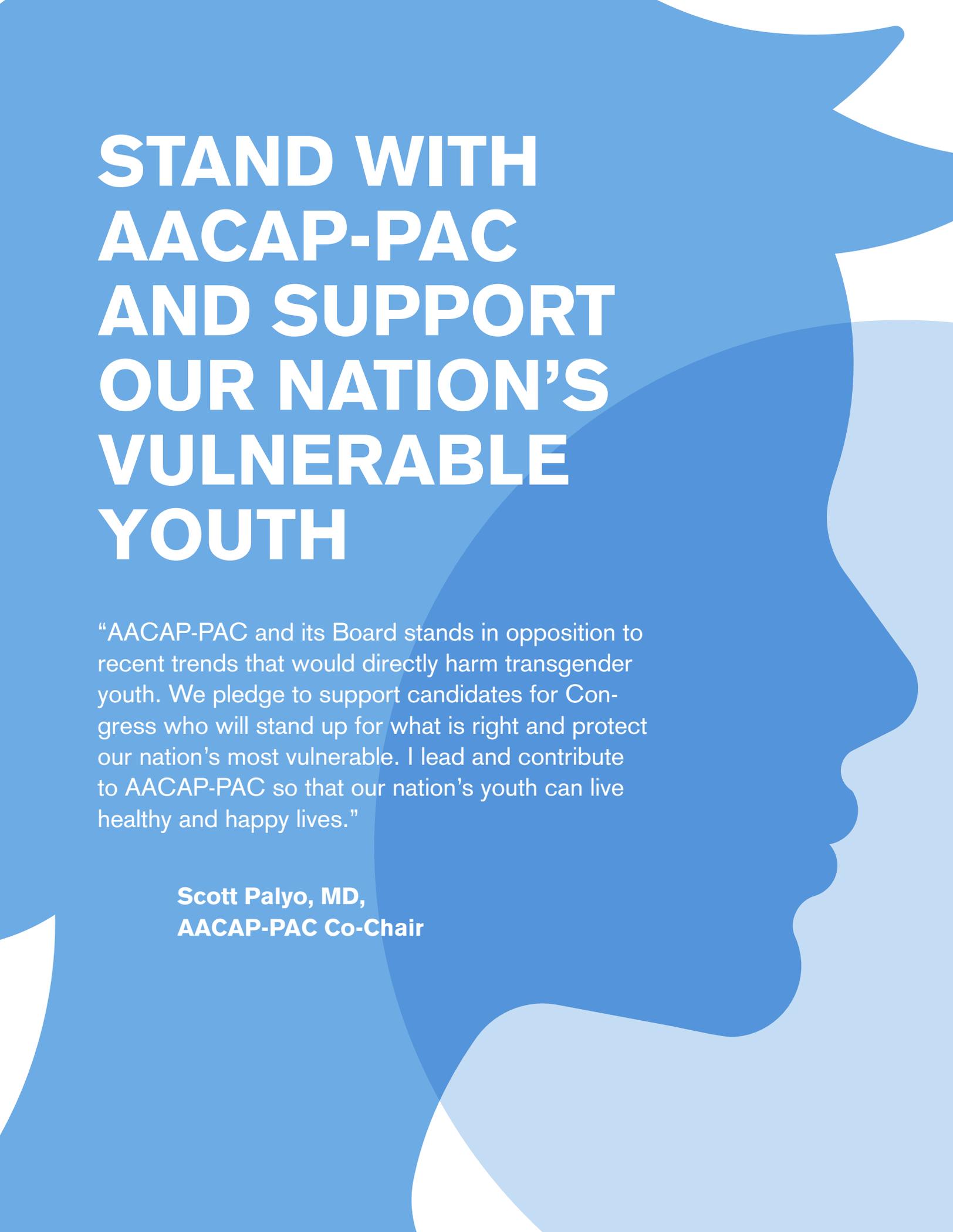
**Robert L Hendren, DO**  
Professor of Psychiatry  
& Behavioral Sciences

## Stand With AACAP-PAC and Support Our Nation’s Vulnerable Youth

“In 2010, I was honored to be AACAP’s second Congressional Fellow. It was an exciting and eye-opening experience and one that I treasure. I learned so much and appreciate the many ways we can connect and engage members of Congress. Following my work on the Hill, I was part of AACAP’s Task Force in deciding to start AACAP PAC. It’s been a huge success since its inception. As a member of the AACAP-PAC Board, I am appreciative of all the ways our government affairs department engages members of Congress. Given my prior experiences with AACAP, Capitol Hill, advocacy, and children’s mental health, I am very pleased to join AACAP-PAC’s Chairman’s Circle for the past several years and am very appreciative of all the AACAP family who also supports the only PAC dedicated to children’s mental health.”

**Scott Palyo, M.D.**  
AACAP PAC Co-chair





# STAND WITH AACAP-PAC AND SUPPORT OUR NATION'S VULNERABLE YOUTH

“AACAP-PAC and its Board stands in opposition to recent trends that would directly harm transgender youth. We pledge to support candidates for Congress who will stand up for what is right and protect our nation’s most vulnerable. I lead and contribute to AACAP-PAC so that our nation’s youth can live healthy and happy lives.”

**Scott Palyo, MD,  
AACAP-PAC Co-Chair**

# FEDERAL PRIORITIES

## Supporting School-Based Mental Health Services

Schools serve a critical role to help identify mental health problems early, and connect students to mental health services, especially in rural communities where resources are scarce. And the need for school-based mental health services has never been greater because of the COVID-19 pandemic. If left untreated, children and adolescent mental health disorders can lead to academic failure, family conflicts, substance use, and even suicidal ideation.

More investments are needed to link schools with community mental health professionals, including child and adolescent psychiatrists, to provide behavioral and mental health services for K-12 students that is trauma-informed and evidence-based. Further, educator professional development is needed to help teachers and school personnel better recognize and respond to early signs of mental or behavioral health issues and assist students experiencing trauma and violence.

Mental health education and mental health services must be integrated within our nation's schools to both foster supportive environments and connect children to mental health care. AACAP-PAC is working to educate legislators on the urgent need to increase mental health services in our nation's schools.

## Addressing Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Workforce Shortage

Anyone who has tried to gain access to children's mental health care knows there is a dire shortage of pediatric mental health providers. No state has an adequate supply of child and adolescent psychiatrists which is acutely felt in emergency departments, inpatient and outpatient settings, urban and rural areas alike.

Children are best served by early intervention and prevention measures, and evidence-based treatments for any serious emotional disturbance to reduce the chance of lifelong prevalence of mental illness. However, too few children and adolescents gain access to the mental health care they need and deserve. Recent workforce shortage estimates, reported prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, cite the need for 48-49,000 additional child and adolescent psychiatrists. Without long-term federal support in the children's mental health workforce, patients will continue to face long wait times and unmet mental health needs.

Finding physicians willing to fill child and adolescent fellowship training slots is a challenge for several reasons, including the expected student debt load. AACAP continues to advocate for loan relief for pediatric subspecialists with Congress and the Administration.

## Addressing Mental Health Equity and Disparities

The COVID-19 pandemic and continuing racial injustices have exposed long-standing and deeply rooted physical and mental health treatment disparities among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Although percentage prevalence rates for mental health disorders are relatively equal across racial and ethnic groups, BIPOC minority populations are less likely than other Americans to receive mental health care due to a lack of access to services and cultural stigma.

Children and families from culturally diverse groups have unique needs that are not always met by our current health care system. This is especially true for BIPOC communities. They may have more difficulty finding mental health professionals in minority communities, particularly child and adolescent psychiatrists. Culturally diverse mental health professionals are needed to help children and adolescents from BIPOC communities feel comfortable and have their lived experiences understood. Finding such care can be daunting. Reliable federal data does not currently exist to help guide government-supported mental health spending to states to best address equity issues. AACAP is advocating for better data and federal investments to ensure all children and adolescents have access to quality mental health care.

# STATEMENTS

“The AACAP-PAC Board will disqualify from consideration all 147 U.S. Representatives and Senators who voted against certifying the results of the November 2020 presidential election from potentially receiving AACAP-PAC financial support, for the foreseeable future.

AACAP-PAC takes our responsibility very seriously. Our central mission is to foster good government and advance children’s mental health. Those Members of Congress who voted against certifying the results of our free and fair election have undermined faith in democracy and supported lies that incited a violent insurrection. In critical moments like these, good leadership truly matters. As we know well, children are watching our nation’s response to this time of crisis. AACAP-PAC is committed to only supporting candidates and elected officials who uphold our democracy and fulfill their responsibilities with respect and integrity, while advancing children’s mental health.

AACAP-PAC has been and continues to be a bi-partisan PAC which supports people on both sides of the aisle who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting children’s mental health and wellbeing. As always, we are wholly dependent on your voluntary, non tax-deductible contributions completely separate from your AACAP dues. In a typical two-year Congressional cycle, our available resources limit AACAP-PAC to contributions in-hand and typically number some 30-40 in total.”

Sincerely,

**The AACAP-PAC Board**

# AACAP-PAC 101

## What is AACAP-PAC?

It is the political action committee of the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. We support candidates for Congress who support child and adolescent psychiatry and are prochildren's mental health.

## Why should I contribute to AACAP-PAC?

The more money we raise - the more mental health champions we can elect. The future of our profession is at stake. Your contribution matters and it is needed, no matter the size.

## AACAP-PAC ethical?

Yes, PACs are legal, ethical and common. Contributions to political action committees are protected under the First Amendment.

## Why do we need AACAP-PAC?

Decisions about your future are made in Washington, DC whether you are there or not. AACAP-PAC gives us a seat at the table to make sure our voice is heard in the conversation.

## How do I learn more about AACAP-PAC?

Visit [aacap-pac.com](http://aacap-pac.com)! You can also email our team at [pac@aacap.com](mailto:pac@aacap.com) or give us a call at 202-587-9669.

# 2021 CONTRIBUTIONS

2021 Fiscal Year Contributions (total \$57,500)

Sen. **Bill Cassidy, MD** (R-LA)

Rep. **Gus Bilirakis** (R-FL)

Rep. **Larry Bucshon** (R-IN)

**Steve Bullock** (candidate, D-MT)

Rep. **Cheri Bustos** (D-IL)

Rep. **Michael Burgess** (R-TX)

Sen. **Shelley Moore Capito** (R-WV)

Rep. **Tony Cárdenas** (D-CA)

Rep. **Van Demings** (D-FL)

Sen. **Dick Durbin** (D-IL)

Rep. **Brian Fitzpatrick** (R-PA)

**Jackie Gordon** (candidate, D-NY-02)

Sen. **Doug Jones** (D-AL)

Rep. **John Katko** (R-NY)

Rep. **Ben Ray Lujan** (D-NM)

Sen. **Catherine Cortez Masto** (D-NV)

Rep. **Mark Mullin** (R-OK)

Rep. **Grace Napolitano** (D-CA)

Sen. **Jon Ossoff** (D-GA)

Rep. **Frank Pallone** (D-NJ)

Rep. **Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA)

Rep. **Kim Schrier, MD** (D-WA)

Sen. **Tina Smith** (D-MN)

Rep. **Paul Tonko** (D-NY)

Rep. **Fred Upton** (R-MI)

Candace Valenzuela (candidate, D-TX-24)

Sen. **Raphael Warnock** (D-GA)

Rep. **Susan Wild** (D-PA)

**Congressional Hispanic Caucus BOLD PAC**

# THANK YOU

## CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE • \$1000 +

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Gabrielle A. Carlson, MD  
Mark DeAntonio, MD  
Timothy F. Dugan, MD  
Lisa Ann Durette, MD  
David G. Fassler, MD  
Heidi Buttner Fordi, CAE

George Alex Fouras, MD  
Robert L. Hendren, DO  
Patrick Kelly, MD  
Debra E. Koss, MD  
Yiu Kee Warren Ng, MD  
Melvin D. Oatis, MD

Scott M. Palyo, MD  
Karen Pierce, MD  
Meghan Schott, DO  
Michael Adam Shapiro, MD  
Gabrielle L. Shapiro, MD  
Aradhana Bela Sood, MD

Marian A. Swope, MD  
Karen Dineen Wagner, MD, PhD  
John T. Walkup, MD  
Sala Webb, MD  
Roger Wu, MD

## DOLLAR-A-DAY CLUB • \$365 - \$999

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Edward Bender, DO  
Mark S. Borer, MD  
Clarence Chou, MD

Jennifer L. Derenne, MD  
Suzanne L. Don, MD  
Peter J. Geier, MD

Randall B. Gurak, MD  
Bennett L. Leventhal, MD  
Ronald Szabat, Esq

Laura M. Willing, MD  
Muhammad Zeshan, MD

## SILVER CIRCLE • \$100 - \$364

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Balkozar S. Adam, MD  
Adrienne L. Adams, MD  
Shetal Mahesh Amin, MD  
Perry B. Bach, MD  
Avanti Bergquist, MD  
Mary K. Billingsley  
Jill Z. Brafford  
Matthew D. Brown, DO  
Judith A. Cohen, MD  
Harry DeCabo  
Amanda Downey, MD  
Phillip L. Edwardson, MD

Karen Ferguson  
Sandra L. Fritsch, MD  
Gregory K. Fritz, MD  
Jennifer M. Harris, MD  
John L. Hendrickson, MD  
Pamela E. Hoffman, MD  
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Michael B. Karluk, MD  
Kimberly Kelsay, MD  
Virginia Miller Khoury, MD

Soo Jung Lee, MD  
John Leikauf, MD  
Annie Li, MD  
Zsolt Lorant, MD  
Eileen S. McGee, MD  
Julia H. Murray, MD  
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Mark S. Owens, DO  
Richard R. Pleak, MD  
Theodote K. Pontikes, MD  
Nancy Rappaport, MD  
David J. Schopick, MD

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Susan M. Taccheri, MD  
Minerva Villafane-Garcia, MD  
Marianne Z. Wamboldt, MD  
Cynthia A. Whitney  
Maria C. Zerrate, MD, MHS

## FELLOW'S CLUB (FOR THOSE CURRENTLY IN A TRAINING PROGRAM) • \$25 +

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Elizabeth Wagner, MD

## AACAP-PAC CONTRIBUTORS • < \$100

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Peter R. Cohen, MD  
Anita Kishore, MD Elizabeth

Ronald H. Lee, MD  
Elizabeth Reynolds-Yoon, MD

Deborah Marcia Weisbrot, MD  
Linda Zamvil, MD

AACAP-PAC is a separate segregated fund established by the American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. Contributions to AACAP-PAC are completely voluntary. You may choose not to contribute without reprisal. Contributions are not limited to the suggested amount, subject to overall limits. Contributions or gifts to AACAP-PAC will be used for political purposes and are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Voluntary political contributions are subject to limitations of FEC regulations. Foreign nationals cannot contribute to AACAP-PAC.

**[AACAP-PAC.COM](http://AACAP-PAC.COM)**