

ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

Gun Buyback (in progress)

Purpose: To help reduce number of firearms in our community and offer a safe, no questions asked method of discarding of firearms

Plan: Inform families of date and location of buyback. They will receive a food gift card depending on gun type

Participate: There will be another resident meeting in the coming months to give updates and details on how you can help

Contact: **Tim Klouda** [email](#)

Opioid Crisis

Purpose: To better understand and address the crisis and limit its effect on our patient population

Plan: Ask all patients and families if they or someone they know are struggling with pain medications, heroin or fentanyl

Participate: If any patients or families answer yes to the above question, there is a PDF on GenPeds (under advocacy) that includes a pre-filled script for Narcan, pharmacies where it is available in the area, free training sessions and instructions on how to administer. Please print and give to the family. You do NOT need to sign anything.

We will be holding a Narcan and Opioid training session on [January 16th during noon lecture](#) for any residents interested.

Contact: **Brian Novi** [email](#) or (614) 546 - 6776

Welcome to Issue Two!

For those of you who follow the AAP advocacy scene closely, their #votekids campaign asked its members to keep in mind three major issues that directly effect the lives of the population we care for: access to care, immigrant child health, and gun safety. The November Newsletter will focus on the impact you can still have with regards to these three issues now that the election has come and gone.

1. Access to Care

Given that the 2018 Farm Bill has passed both the House and Senate and is in the final negotiating phase with a decision to be made soon, it is important to do all we can to limit any negative impact it may have on SNAP. The current Farm Bill both limits who can receive benefits and how much they are eligible to receive. The research supporting this claim was conducted by Robert Wood Johnson and is [detailed in this article](#). Click [here](#) to submit a letter voicing your concerns about the impact the 2018 Farm Bill will have on SNAP benefits.

2. Immigrant Child Health

The biggest threat to immigrant families and their health is the Trump administration's proposed definition of a "Public Charge," a test used to decide if someone can become a permanent US resident. The proposal expands this test to determine how likely they would be to use government programs like Medicaid and SNAP. 1 in 4 US children live in an immigrant family. There are 9 million children at risk from this proposal, which asks immigrant families to choose between keeping their family healthy



TAKE ACTION

Below you will find three actions we, as the advocacy committee, feel are important to be aware of and to participate in. There is one for each level of impact. We are adding these to our newsletter to inform as much as possible about the larger role and impact we can all have as Pediatricians.

Federal

The proposal was published October 10. The public has **until December 10** to weigh in. Follow these steps below to take action:

- 1) Visit federaladvocacy.aap.org and log in;
- 2) Click "Oppose the Public Charge Proposal" in the Advocacy Action Center;
- 3) Click Submit;
- 4) Copy, paste and personalize the [AAP template](#); and
- 5) Click Submit.

With that, your comments will be submitted to Regulations.gov.

State

Reach out to PA state legislators to advocate for improved gun safety legislation. Focus your message on the ban of assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines. [Click here](#) to submit a letter urging legislators to co-sponsor the Age 21 Act and the Assault Weapons Ban.

Community

See the House Staff Minutes for the awesome QI project Ayse is working on to improve our screening for food insecurity on the floors. One fifth of children live in a family that experiences food insecurity and lacks consistent access to adequate nutrition. SNAP, WIC, school nutrition programs, summer feeding programs. Make sure our families are receiving the benefits they are eligible for.

and risking separation or forgoing vital services. See the [Federal](#) details in [Take Action](#) to speak out against this proposal.

3. Gun Safety

A recent study looking at data from 2006 to 2014 revealed that 11 of every 100,000 children and teens treated in US EDs have gun-related injuries amounting to 8,300 kids each year and a cost of a quarter million dollars per year.

This issue is in our lane.

See the [State](#) details in [Take Action](#) to help create a safer environment for the children and teens we care for.

Contact Tim about the Gun Buyback Program to see how you can help out. In addition, continue to ask families about the presence of firearms in the home and counsel parents to store guns unloaded in a locked case and offer a free gun lock.



As a reminder, the advocacy committee will function as a braintrust, support system, and catalog for all ongoing and future advocacy projects. If you have a project you are interested in starting, please let the advocacy committee know and we will ask you to join our next meeting to help plan and execute your idea. Our hope is to take on all communication, regulatory assistance, and efficacy assessment for all advocacy projects. Contact [Eric Belser](#) if interested in joining.