

# American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

## For Immediate Release

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### Press Statement on

## **PASSAGE OF AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009**

By Judith Palfrey, MD, president-elect, American Academy of Pediatrics

“The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which represents 60,000 pediatricians, praises Congress for passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which will help stimulate the economy by improving the health of all Americans including our most vulnerable - children and adolescents.

“The Academy is pleased that the final compromise included critical health care provisions, including Health Information Technology (Health IT), Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) and \$1 billion included for public health, prevention and wellness, including funding for immunizations and health professions training.

“The Academy supported ARRA because the provisions included are vital to the health and well being of all children and adolescents:

- The recovery package's approximately \$19 billion in incentives for HIT adoption, which includes incentives through the Medicaid and CHIP programs, would better enable pediatricians to purchase Health IT systems;
- An estimated \$87 billion over the next two years allocated for an FMAP increase will protect the nation's more than 30 million poor and disabled children enrolled in Medicaid, whose families are particularly vulnerable during times of economic distress;
- The funding provided for Prevention and Wellness activities (\$1 billion) are critical to maintaining the health and well-being of all American children, their families and our economic recovery including retaining and creating jobs;
- The \$10 billion funding provided for the National Institute of Health (NIH) will allow for the expansion of its bio-medical research and workforce capabilities;
- The \$2.1 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start will provide services to an additional 110,000 infants and children.

“The Academy believes that these robust investments in public health and prevention, combined with the increase in FMAP and funding to implement Health IT will yield improvements to the health and well-being of all children and adolescents. We look forward to President Obama signing this critical stimulus package into law.”

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*The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.*