Speaker John A. Boehner announced on Friday that he will resign his position and give up his House seat in October.

WASHINGTON — Speaker John A. Boehner, under intense pressure from conservatives in his party, announced on Friday that he would resign one
HOT TOPICS FOR PEDIATRIC SUBSPECIALTY

1) Loan repayment for pediatric subspecialists
2) Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program
3) GME reform?
4) CHIP reauthorization
5) Medicaid payment
Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program

Section 5203 of the Affordable Care Act

- Loan repayment of up to $35,000/year for up to 3 years
- Must agree to work in an underserved area

Authorized:

- $30 million/year for pediatric medical and surgical subspecialists
- $20 million/year for child and adolescent mental health specialists
Initial ask: $5 million

President’s Budget: Proposed $5 million for the program in FY2013 and FY2014

Implementation Plan:

1. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to administer
2. Proposed to fund 64 initial 2-year awards
3. Start by taking all comers
LOAN REPAYMENT: APPROPRIATIONS

Strengths:
1) Strong coalition advocating for funding
2) No ideological controversy
3) Compelling message

Obstacles:
1) Budget crisis
2) Affordable Care Act politics
LOAN REPAYMENT: NEW STRATEGY NEEDED

- Never funded by Congress
- Expired on September 30, 2014
- Prospects for reauthorization looked dim
- White House recommends working within existing programs
LOAN REPAYMENT:
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS

National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program
Up to $50,000 for 2-year commitment, possible extension

Current requirements:
1) Primary care
2) Generally non-hospital settings
3) Health professionals shortage areas (HPSAs)
Ensuring Children's Access to Specialty Care Act of 2015
H.R.1859

Introduced: April 16, 2015

Lead Sponsors: Chris Collins (R-N.Y.)
Joe Courtney (D-Conn.)

Co-sponsors: 23 (15 Rep., 8 Dem.)

Provisions: Adds pediatric subspecialists to qualifying providers, add flexibility in terms of facility and shortage areas

Doesn’t have a cost
LOAN REPAYMENT: NEXT STEPS

- Need additional House co-sponsors
- Need Senate champion
- Need more patient advocacy groups to join our coalition
Advocacy Action Center

Protect Child Nutrition Programs

Congress must reauthorize legislation that supports federal nutrition programs like the Supplemental Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), School Meals, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program by September 30. Please consider urging your members of Congress to pass a strong child nutrition bill.

Support Funding for the Next Great Achievements in Pediatric Research

For decades, federal funding for pediatric research has been essential to support the development of treatments that have saved countless children’s lives. Tell policymakers that pediatricians need their support now more than ever to ensure needed investments in the future of pediatric research.

Support Efforts to Provide Children with Access to Specialty Care

Currently, there is a significant shortage in the number of pediatric subspecialists, and a significant disparity in the geographic distribution of these subspecialists. This disparity results in long commutes for parents seeking care for their children and subspecialist appointment wait times that can last more than 10 weeks. The Ensuring Children’s Access to Specialty Care Act (H.R. 1859) would help address these workforce challenges and incentivize more pediatric subspecialists to practice in underserved areas.

Find your elected officials

Lookup your elected officials and candidates. Just enter your ZIP code to get started.

Medicaid’s 50th Anniversary

The Medicaid program will celebrate its 50th anniversary on July 30. To read the reflections of AAP leaders and pediatricians who witnessed the evolution of the program, please click here.

Leading up to the anniversary, anecdotes and quotes will also be shared in the weekly Federal Legislative Updates.

FederalAdvocacy.aap.org
CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

- Freestanding children’s hospitals train roughly half of pediatric subspecialists
- President continues to propose serious cuts
  - FY2016 recommendation: $100 million
- Funding level staying flat at $265 million
- Congressional support remains high
GME REFORM?

1) IOM recommendations on GME funding reform released July 29, 2014
2) Panic ensues
3) Congress does nothing (yet)
GME REFORM: IOM RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Maintain the current level of federal funding for graduate medical education (adjusted for inflation)
2) Fund freestanding children’s hospitals out of mandatory Medicare dollars
3) Eliminate IME/DME distinction: establish one national per resident amount, geographically adjusted
4) Divert approximately 10%-30% of GME $ to new payment methodologies
5) New governance system to set payment priorities
GME REFORM: IMPLICATIONS FOR SUBSPECIALTY

- Threat of cuts to subspecialty training?
- Strong support of IOM report from AAFP
- AAFP recommends eliminating all federal support for fellowships (currently funded at 50%)
WILL CONGRESS REFORM?

1) IOM recommends reform
2) Potential to save money by cutting IME
3) Desire to make system more transparent/accountable
4) Western states want more fair share of GME $

...OR NOT REFORM

1) Split committee jurisdiction
   - CHGME vs. Medicare GME
2) Strong push to raise caps on number of Medicare GME slots: will cost $
3) Potential to divide medicine: primary care vs. specialty
4) Hospitals/training programs concerned about budgets, new requirements, etc.
BIPARTISAN - HR 2 (P.L. 114-10): House 392-37, Senate 92-8

GENEROUS TO STATES - CHIP gets $39.7b; net $5.6b cost to feds

STABLE - Funds CHIP through September 2017
MEDICAID PAYMENT EQUITY

- Only two-year provision
- Expired January 1, 2015
- MACRA amendment to extend payment bump failed
- Bills to extend have only attracted Democratic support
- SGR repeal a new opening for Medicaid payment?
- Primary care vs. subspecialty?
# PEDIATRICIANS AS MESSENGERS

## U.S. Views on Honesty and Ethical Standards in Professions

Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields -- very high, high, average, low, or very low?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>% Very high or high</th>
<th>% Average</th>
<th>% Very low or low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurses</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical doctors</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Pharmacists</td>
<td>65</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Police officers</td>
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<td>Car salespeople</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Members of Congress</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>61</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dec. 8-11, 2014
Rated in order of % Very high or high

GALLUP®
Children with complex health care needs require specialty care.

Shortage in pediatric subspecialists results in long wait times and distances traveled to care.

Fellowship slots go unfilled, faculty positions hard to fill.

Primary care pediatricians have difficulty referring out.

Financial concerns impact decision to specialize.
ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES: DC LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
APRIL 3-5, 2016

Participants will develop their federal advocacy skills through interactive workshops, learn about timely child health policy topics, hear from several guest speakers from Congress and the Administration and visit with their legislators on Capitol Hill.

Email - LegislativeConference@aap.org

Visit –

www.AAP.org/LegCon
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) invites you to take part in a monumental experience October 24–27 in Washington, DC. Experience over 350 educational sessions including practical hands-on learning and networking in addition to the largest pediatric technical exhibit of its kind.