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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

March 24, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Andrew Racine, M.D., Ph.D., FAAP
President
American Academy of Pediatrics
345 Park Blvd.
Itasca, IL 60143

Dear Dr. Racine:

Last Congress, I launched an investigation into professional organizations promoting the use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and irreversible gender transition surgeries on minors.¹ To that end, I sent a letter to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) requesting information on the AAP's 2018 Policy Statement, "Ensuring Comprehensive Care and Support for Transgender and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents," which was developed for children and adolescents suffering from "gender dysphoria."²

Although the AAP provided responses to my letter dated October 9, 2024, I have additional questions on the development of the AAP's Policy Statement and its partnership with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health's (WPATH) and other professional organizations that promote gender transition procedures in children and adolescents.

In my prior letter, I raised alarm regarding efforts by the Biden administration, particularly Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) former Assistant Secretary Admiral Levine and staff, to remove age limits for adolescent surgeries including mastectomies, breast augmentation, facial surgeries, genital surgeries, and hysterectomies, from WPATH's Standards of Care (SOC-

¹ Press Release, S. Comm. on Health, Labor, Educ., & Pensions, Ranking Member Cassidy Launches Investigation into Medical Organizations Promoting Puberty Blockers, Gender Transition Procedures for Children Against Scientific Data (Oct. 10, 2024), <https://www.help.senate.gov/rep/newsroom/press/ranking-member-cassidy-launches-investigation-into-medical-organizations-promoting-puberty-blockers-gender-transition-procedures-for-children-against-scientific-data>.

² Letter from Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chairman, S. Comm. on Health, Labor, Educ., & Pensions, to Mark Del Monte, J.D., Chief Executive Officer/Exec. Vice President, Am. Academy of Pediatrics (Oct. 9, 2024), <https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-10-09-letter-from-bc-to-american-academy-of-pediatrics-re-cass-review-and-2018-policy-statementpdf.pdf>.

8).³ According to the *New York Times*, emails exchanged between WPATH and Admiral Levine’s staff raised concerns that keeping the age limits would result in setbacks to the progress made to the “fight against the conservative anti-trans agenda.”⁴ The *Times* article also referenced email communications from the AAP that “warned WPATH that it would not endorse the group’s recommendations if the guidelines set the new age minimums.”⁵ As a result, the WPATH SOC-8, released in 2022, ultimately removed the age limits for these procedures.⁶

Since taking office, President Trump has delivered on his promise to protect American children and families from the reckless decisions of medical organizations and interest groups that erroneously claim to act based on “science” and in the best interests of children.⁷ I also applaud HHS for taking decisive action against providers and other entities that violate the President’s Executive Order.⁸

Gender transition treatments and surgeries, particularly in children and adolescents, are highly consequential. They are irreversible, with damaging, long lasting side-effects that affect a child or adolescent’s immediate physical, mental, and emotional development and their future wellbeing as an adult. I was pleased to note recent statements issued by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the American Medical Association backing limitations on gender-related surgical procedures for minors.⁹ To date, the AAP has not issued a similar statement.

As a physician and Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, I am deeply committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in matters related to public health. Americans have every right to know the scientific rigor supporting guidelines issued by your organization, particularly given that these guidelines are widely used and relied upon by physicians and healthcare providers, and patients, including minors.

³ See generally Letter from Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chairman, S. Comm. on Health, Labor, Educ., & Pensions, to Marci Bowers, M.D., President, WPATH (Oct. 9, 2024), https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-10-09_letter_from_bc_to_wpath_re_cass_review_and_standards_of_carepdf.pdf; Letter from Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chairman, S. Comm. on Health, Labor, Educ., & Pensions, to Mark Del Monte, J.D., Chief Executive Officer/Exec. Vice President, Am. Academy of Pediatrics (Oct. 9, 2024), https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-10-09_letter_from_bc_to_american_academy_of_pediatrics_re_cass_review_and_2018_policy_statementpdf.pdf.

⁴ Azeen Ghorayshi, *Biden Officials Pushed to Remove Age Limits for Trans Surgery*, *Documents Show*, N.Y. TIMES (June 25, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/25/health/transgender-minors-surgeries.html>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ E. Coleman et al., *Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People, Version 8* 23 INT’L J. TRANSGENDER HEALTH 1-259 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2022.2100644>.

⁷ Exec. Order No. 14187, Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation, 90 Fed. Reg. 8771 (2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/03/2025-02194/protecting-children-from-chemical-and-surgical-mutilation>.

⁸ Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Health and Human Serv., HHS Acts to Bar Hospitals from Performing Sex-Rejecting Procedures on Children (Dec. 18, 2025), <https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/hhs-acts-bar-hospitals-performing-sex-rejecting-procedures-children.html>.

⁹ Andrew Jacobs, *Doctors’ Group Endorses Restrictions on Gender-Related Surgery for Minors*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/04/health/gender-surgery-minors-ama.html>.

Therefore, to cooperate with the Committee’s ongoing investigation, please provide the requested responses (including related documents, records, and communications) on a **question-by-question** basis **by Tuesday, April 7, 2026**. For the production of documents and communications, we ask that these be **unredacted** and Bates stamped.

1. In 2023, the AAP authorized the development of an expanded set of guidance for pediatricians based on a systematic review of the evidence.¹⁰ Since your last response to the Committee,
 - a. Please provide an update on the process and proposed timetable for reevaluation, including the expected publication of this review.
 - b. Please provide details on the methodology and any preliminary findings of this review.
 - c. Please provide details on contributing partners and advisors to this review.
2. Please provide all communications, including but not limited to emails, internal messages, calendar invitations, meeting notes, text messages, and social media messages (herein, collectively, “communications”), and all documents, including but not limited to memoranda, presentations, reports, and records (herein, collectively, “documents”), between the AAP and former HHS Assistant Secretary Admiral Levine, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.
3. Please provide all communications and documents between the AAP and members of Admiral Levine’s staff, including chief of staff Sarah Boateng, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.
4. Please provide all communications and documents between AAP staff and White House personnel, including staff of former President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.
5. Please produce all communications and documents related to the AAP’s partnership with academic institutions on child and adolescent gender transition procedures, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.

¹⁰ Press Release, Alyson Sulaski Wyckoff, Am. Academy of Pediatrics, AAP Reaffirms Gender-Affirming Care Policy, Authorizes Systematic Review of Evidence to Guide Update (Aug. 4, 2023), <https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/25340/AAP-reaffirms-gender-affirming-care-policy>.

6. Please produce all communications and documents related to the AAP's partnership with WPATH on child and adolescent gender transition procedures and the development of SOC-8, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.
7. Please produce all communications and documents related to the AAP's partnership with the Endocrine Society on child and adolescent gender transition procedures, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.
8. Please produce all communications and documents related to the AAP's partnership with professional and medical organizations on child and adolescent gender transition procedures, from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bill Cassidy, M.D. in blue ink.

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Chairman

U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions