

Nevada Chapter

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

NevadaAAP.org

8550 W Charleston Blvd
Ste 102-365
Las Vegas, NV 89117

(702) 720-6572

Executive Committee 2023 - 2024

President

Mitchell Strominger, MD, FAAP

Vice President

Terence McAllister, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

Vanessa Slots, MD, FAAP

Secretary/Treasurer

Randi Lampert, MD, FAAP

Executive Director

Leann D. McAllister, MBA

The Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is incorporated in the state of Nevada.

July 17, 2024

Joint Interim Standing Committee on Growth and Infrastructure
via GRInterim@lcb.state.nv.us

Dear Chair Harris and Members of the Committee,

The pediatricians of the Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Nevada AAP) are committed to working with you and the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Growth and Infrastructure to improve pediatric care for all children in Nevada.

Today you will review data and policy options for two issues critical to the safety and wellbeing of Nevada's children: [pedestrian safety](#) and [extreme heat](#).

Usually, playing and exercising outside boosts a child's physical and mental health in many ways. However, a heat index at or above 90°F, as identified by the National Weather Service, poses a significant health risk. High temperatures and extreme heat can cause children to become sick very quickly in several ways. It can cause dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat stroke, which is a medical emergency. High heat can also make everyone more irritable. To learn more about this topic, I encourage you to read Reno pediatrician Dr. Deb Hendrickson's recently published book [The Air They Breathe: A Pediatrician on the Frontlines of Climate Change](#). Dr. Hendrickson is a nationally recognized expert on the impact of the climate crisis on pediatric health and the Nevada AAP Chapter Climate Advocate.

On a good day in Nevada, when it's not dangerously hot and the air is clear of pollutants from wildfires, pediatricians strongly encourage all children to have at least two hours of exercise as prescribed in the [Heal Nevada](#) 5-2-1-0 program. Traditionally pediatricians have encouraged families to have their children walk or bike to school as a routine form of daily exercise. However, in the United States, 16% of children killed in traffic crashes are pedestrians. Research shows that child pedestrian deaths have risen 11% since 2013, affecting more children ages 10-14 and teens ages 15-19. You have an opportunity in Nevada to enact proven legislation from other states to improve the grim data in Nevada. Policies like a helmet law as well as permitting photo speed limit enforcement in critical areas, including school zones.

The American Academy of Pediatrics calls for communities to adopt and promote policies, programs and legislation that result in a safer environment for pedestrians. The policy statement, "[Child Pedestrian Safety](#)," and an accompanying technical report, "[Epidemiology and Prevention of Child Pedestrian Injury](#)," published in the July 2023 issue of Pediatrics advocates for legislation that addresses environmental and urban design factors that impact pedestrian safety. We also encourage you to adopt policies and programs to educate pedestrians and drivers.

The Nevada AAP currently has 280 members, most of whom are board-certified pediatricians, both primary and specialty care; members also include pediatric nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pediatric residents, and medical students, all of whom live and work in Nevada and have dedicated their professional lives to the health of all children.

Pediatricians, as the most extensively educated providers of pediatric care, have the ability to manage, coordinate, and supervise the entire spectrum of health care, from diagnosis through all stages of treatment and in all practice settings. My job is to connect physician leaders at the Nevada AAP to you, our legislators, to ensure that you are aware of the most recent, evidence-based pediatric care thinking available as you make critical governing decisions for our state.

Thank you for your leadership,

Lee

Leann D. McAllister, MBA
Executive Director

Nevada Chapter

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
