

NevadaAAP.org

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2023 - 2024**

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AB255 Support Statement

Monday, 13 March 2023

Presented by Leann McAllister, Executive Director

All children need homes that are safe and full of love. This is especially true for children with special health needs.

[Eighty-one percent of children adopted from the foster care system are classified as having special needs. Ninety-one percent of families receive an adoption subsidy.](#)

The American Academy of Pediatrics supports financial subsidies for adoptive foster parents which may specifically support medical and/or psychiatric care, counseling or therapy, special equipment, tutoring programs, or other support services that may help children who have special needs.

For Nevada families wanting to learn more about supporting special-needs children, we recommend the website <https://numberstory.org/>. ACEs are Adverse Childhood Experiences. Our ACE history counts experiences of abuse, neglect and household challenges that happened to us as children. But that number does not define us. It is simply an entry point to our own personal story.

The Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics currently has 266 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.