



Donations to Maine AAP have a direct impact on the health and well-being of children in our community.

November 13, 2023

Dear Friend,

Imagine a teenager, previously brimming with health and excelling in school and sports, trapped in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Maine Medical Center in acute respiratory failure. For Dr. Anne Coates, a pediatric pulmonologist, this harrowing and humbling experience launched her partnership with Maine AAP to lead a successful campaign against the sale of flavored tobacco products packaged and targeted to appeal to youth in multiple communities across Maine.



Dr. Coates' patient did not have underlying medical conditions. He had taken up vaping within the past year. Misled by deceptive advertising, he and his parents believed he was inhaling harmless, flavored water. As his health declined, he experienced worsening school performance, irritability, and a medley of symptoms that extended beyond his respiratory system. Without the intervention of Dr. Coates and her colleagues in the ICU, this patient may not be alive today. **"As we discussed intubating and ventilating this previously healthy child, I thought to myself, if I can do anything to prevent a child from having a result like that again, I will dedicate the rest of my career to doing that. And I have followed through with the help of Maine AAP to advocate and educate the community at large to prevent our youth from vaping flavored tobacco,"** shared Dr. Coates.



Achieving measurable change and progress takes dedicated resources, which Maine AAP provides. Dr. Coates' story is just one of many Maine AAP stories. Pediatricians all over the state, with Maine AAP's help, move the needle in children's health issues far beyond vaping cessation. **Together, we lead change in vaping cessation, the adolescent mental health crisis, food insecurity, gun safety, vaccination, the foster care system, and more.**

Donations to the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics have a direct impact on the health and well-being of children of all ages in our community. With your help, we actively engage in testifying to state legislators and city councils, we bring together coalitions of powerful voices across issue areas to do the work that is needed, and we educate practitioners, communities, and families to ensure that they make choices that will help Maine children thrive.

Thank you for all that you do to help children and families in our communities. **As you consider your year-end gifts, we hope you will include Maine AAP among them to ensure that we can continue fighting for children in our state.** To contribute, please visit www.maineaap.org/donate or send your generous donation to 30 Association Drive, Box 190, Manchester, ME 04351.

Our best to you and your family during this holiday season.

Warmly,

Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH
President
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics