



Supporting the Health And Well-Being of Immigrant Children

Statement from Maine AAP Leadership:

Member Pediatricians-

Increased immigration enforcement activity, including actions by ICE, as well as changes to federal policies related to detention, travel, and access to public benefits, may directly affect the health and well-being of children and their families in our communities. These realities can heighten fear, anxiety, and uncertainty also impact pediatric practices as clinicians work to support families who are concerned about safety, access to care, and family stability.

Pediatricians in Maine are now seeing firsthand how these challenges influence children's physical, mental, and emotional health, as well as families' willingness to seek care. In response, we have created a document that outlines general and Maine- specific resources to support pediatricians, care teams, and the immigrant families they serve.

If you are part of a hospital health system, you are undoubtedly getting excellent resources and information from your institution on clear guidance on how to respond if ICE officers were to arrive at practice locations, and other resources to support the care team. That guidance emphasizes following the law, protecting patient privacy, and prioritizing the safety and dignity of our care teams and patients.

The resources below are intended to provide practical, locally relevant information that supports pediatricians in continuing to deliver compassionate, trauma-informed care to all children, regardless of immigration status. These include:

- Mental and emotional health impacts related to immigration stress
- Talking with children and families about immigration-related fears
- Immigration status concerns and family separation
- Maine-based community and legal resources and how you can best support if able

Maine AAP will continue to monitor how we can best support you all as caregivers as well as our patients in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Brian Youth, MD - President
Anne Coates, MD - Vice President
Dee Kerry - Executive Director

Resources

Resources for Providers:

- [Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Immigrant Children Resource for Pediatricians \(AAP\)](#)
- [Know Your Rights: Checklist for Health Care Centers \(ACLU of Maine\)](#)
- [Seeking Safe Haven: Supporting Immigrant Children & Families Facing Detention or Separation \(HealthyChildren.org\)](#)
- [Talking to Kids About Immigration Enforcement in Their Communities \(Children's Hospital LA\)](#)
- [Pause - Reset - Nourish to Promote Wellbeing \(National Child Traumatic Stress Network\)](#)
- [After a Crisis: How Young Children Heal \(National Child Traumatic Stress Network\)](#)

Resources for Families & Communities:

- [Preparing for and Responding to Immigration Enforcement Activity in Maine \(ACLU of Maine\)](#) - Available in multiple languages.
- [Know Your Rights: If ICE Stops You in Public \(AILA/ILAP\)](#)
- [Food for All Services](#) - packs and delivers culturally rooted, Halal, and accessible food to Maine's immigrants, many of whom are currently sheltering in place.

Direct Impact Organizations to Support and Volunteer with:

- [Presente](#) — Works in community to provide food and material support directly to displaced and dispossessed Afro/Indigenous-Latinx in Maine.
- [Maine Solidarity Fund](#): — Support bail funds, legal fees for community members.
- [Project Relief](#) — Direct support specific for community members that have been detained by ICE.
- [Food for All Services](#) — Pack and deliver food for community members, especially those unable to leave their homes right now.
- [Community Relief Fund](#) - Support bail funds, legal fees, and more.
- Mainers for Humane Immigration's [Freedom Fund](#) – Supports bond funds.
- [Families in Crisis Fund](#) of the Foundation for Portland Public Schools – Supports families of PPS students with basic needs in times of crisis.

Take Action

Thursday Jan. 29th at 1pm - Public Hearing on LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review

In summary, this bill prevents schools, colleges, health care facilities, child care providers, and public libraries from voluntarily letting immigration enforcement officers into private areas or giving them access to student, patient, or library records.

If you're interested in testimony in person, on Zoom, or via written submission, please reach out to Advocacy & Public Health Manager, Madeleine DesFosses at madeleine.desfosses@maineaap.org



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