



July 24, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Barton
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sens. Grassley and Bennet and Reps. Barton and Castor:

On behalf of the March of Dimes, a unique collaboration of scientists, clinicians, parents, members of the business community, and other volunteers representing every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, I would like to express our support for S. 428/H.R. 3325, the Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act of 2017 (ACE Kids Act).

March of Dimes appreciates your leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation to improve care for children with complex medical conditions on Medicaid. Infants and children with complex medical conditions and their families often face daunting obstacles in obtaining the care they need to be healthy, grow and thrive. Many such children see multiple specialists and providers and require care that takes them across state lines. Parents frequently struggle to coordinate this complex web of fragmented care.

The ACE Kids Act creates a patient-centered, pediatric-focused delivery system for this unique population of children to ensure ready access to care across state lines and reduce the burden on these children's families. Specially-designed health homes created for children with complex medical conditions under the ACE Kids Act would employ national quality standards and coordinate care, both essential to improving quality of care and lowering costs. These health homes would include the full range of acute, post-acute and primary care providers, as well as behavioral health professionals. The health homes would focus on outpatient care to ensure children get the care that they need in the most appropriate settings closest to home, while reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits.

Providing children with complex medical conditions enrolled in Medicaid the best possible care is a collective responsibility, and the ACE Kids Act will bring us closer to ensuring these vulnerable children receive the care they need. We thank you for championing the ACE Kids Act and look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation.

Sincerely,


Cynthia Pellegrini

Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Government Affairs