



AAP Headquarters

141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1019
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

Reply to

Department of Federal Affairs

Homer Building, Suite 400 N
601 13th St NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202/347-8600
Fax: 202/393-6137
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

Executive Committee

President

Sandra G. Hassink, MD, FAAP

President-Elect

Benard P. Dreyer, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

James M. Perrin, MD, FAAP

Executive Director/CEO

Karen Remley, MD, FAAP

Board of Directors

District I

Carole E. Allen, MD, FAAP
Arlington, MA

District II

Danielle Laraque, MD, FAAP
Brooklyn, NY

District III

David I. Bromberg, MD, FAAP
Frederick, MD

District IV

Jane M. Foy, MD, FAAP
Winston Salem, NC

District V

Richard H. Tuck, MD, FAAP
Zanesville, OH

District VI

Pamela K. Shaw, MD, FAAP
Kansas City, KS

District VII

Anthony D. Johnson, MD, FAAP
Little Rock, AR

District VIII

Kyle Yasuda, MD, FAAP
Seattle, WA

District IX

Stuart A. Cohen, MD, FAAP
San Diego, CA

District X

Sara H. Goza, MD, FAAP
Fayetteville, GA

July 21, 2015

The Honorable Katherine Clark
U.S. House of Representatives
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ryan Costello
U.S. House of Representatives
427 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Clark and Representative Costello:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 64,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical subspecialists, I write to offer our support for the *Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act of 2015*, legislation that expands awareness, screening, and treatment for postpartum depression.

Every year, more than 400,000 infants are born to mothers who are depressed, making perinatal depression the most underdiagnosed obstetric complication in America. Postpartum depression leads to increased costs of medical care, inappropriate medical care, child abuse and neglect, discontinuation of breastfeeding, family dysfunction, and adversely affects early brain development.¹

The AAP recognizes the adverse impact maternal depression can have on the infant and the importance of addressing maternal depression in a timely, proactive manner in order to ensure the well-being of the mother and the healthy development of the infant. Pediatricians, by virtue of having a longitudinal relationship with families, have a unique opportunity to identify maternal depression and help prevent untoward developmental and mental health outcomes for the infant and family. The *Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act of 2015* would ensure that primary care providers like pediatricians have the appropriate training and resources to identify postpartum depression and to refer mothers to suitable resources and treatment.

The AAP appreciates your commitment to the identification and treatment of postpartum depression and is pleased to support the *Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act of 2015*. We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the health of all our nation's children. If you have any questions feel free to contact Tamar Magarik Haro in our Washington, DC office at tharo@aap.org or 202-347-8600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra G. Hassink, MD, FAAP".

Sandra G. Hassink, MD, FAAP
President

SGH/mrc

¹ AAP Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health. Clinical Report: Incorporating Recognition and Management of Perinatal and Postpartum Depression into Pediatric Practice. *Pediatrics*, 2010; 126; 1032-1039.