

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Committee on Pediatric Workforce

Nondiscrimination in Pediatric Health Care

ABSTRACT. This policy statement reaffirms and consolidates the positions of the American Academy of Pediatrics relative to nondiscrimination in pediatric health care. It addresses pediatricians who provide health care and the infants, children, adolescents, and young adults who are entitled to optimal pediatric care.

ABBREVIATION. AAP, American Academy of Pediatrics.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has generated several policy statements that address nondiscrimination issues.¹⁻⁴ Given the importance of this topic, the AAP is amalgamating its positions related to nondiscrimination into 1 statement.

"The mission of the American Academy of Pediatrics is to attain optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults."⁵ In support of this mission, therefore, the AAP is opposed to discrimination in the care of any patient on the basis of race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, religion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, or disability of the patient or patient's parent(s) or guardian(s). In addition, the AAP supports the right of pediatricians to participate in the delivery of health care without discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, religion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, or disability. Physicians with disabilities who maintain the ability to perform the essential functions of their jobs with or without "reasonable accommodation," as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act,⁶ should not be hindered from participating in such activities.

The recommendations in this statement do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.
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The AAP recognizes the value of diversity and encourages teaching all children, adolescents, and young adults to appreciate and respect diversity. Finally, the AAP encourages its members to support these principles consistently in their interactions with colleagues and in their management of all patients.

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