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Statement from the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics on Medicaid Funding Shortage

Montgomery, Ala. – Alabama pediatricians today called on state lawmakers to begin work on finding a new Medicaid funding solution before the beginning of the next fiscal year.

“We are deeply saddened that time ran out on the legislature before lawmakers were able to find a compromise to fund Alabama’s Medicaid program,” said **Cathy Wood**, MD, FAAP, a pediatrician at Partners in Pediatrics Clinic in Montgomery, and the president of the Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics. “Either of the two BP settlement bills would have gone a long way toward guaranteeing that pediatricians across the state would be able to maintain the current levels of care for all Alabama children. As a result of the legislature’s inability to find a funding solution, it is likely that families on Medicaid and private insurance will find it more difficult to see a physician in their community as early as this Fall. We are hopeful that Governor Bentley and state legislators will work together before the next fiscal year to reach a compromise that reassures Alabama families that the level of medical care they currently receive will be unaffected.”

In April, Alabama pediatricians had warned that the failure to fully fund Medicaid would result in staff layoffs, long lines and significantly reduced access to basic healthcare services for all patients in their care.

The AL-AAP, which represents 780 members including approximately 390 primary care pediatricians who accept Medicaid patients, recently surveyed its members to learn the impact the expected cuts to Medicaid will have on pediatric care in Alabama.

According to respondents to AL-AAP’s survey, if the governor eliminates the primary care payment bump and reduces Medicaid up to 10 percent:

- Close to half would stop taking Medicaid for a portion of their patients, such as new patients, or patients from a certain geographic area;
- And, about half would have to lay off staff.

In addition, AL-AAP respondents reported that if the governor eliminates the primary care payment bump and reduces Medicaid by more than 20 percent:

- More than one-third would stop taking Medicaid altogether;

- And, one-sixth said they would retire or move out of state, depending on where they were in their careers.

[Click here to download a summary of the AL-AAP Member Survey results.](#)

About the Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics

A 501 (c) 3 organization, the Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics is the only statewide member organization of pediatricians, with more than 780 members across the state, representing both academic and community pediatrics in both urban and rural areas. With a mission to obtain optimal health and well-being for all children in Alabama, and to provide educational and practice support for its membership so the highest quality of medical care can be achieved, the organization has an active voice on almost every state collaborative effort that serves the health interests of children.

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