

PEDIATRICIANS ARE NATURAL ADVOCATES

As a pediatrician, you are a natural and powerful advocate on behalf of children's health. Consider the following reasons why you are uniquely suited for advocacy:

YOU PUT A HUMAN FACE ON ADVOCACY: You care for children every day who are affected by greater health and social systems. When you tell your story, you make the issue of children's health real to people in a way that fact sheets or statistics alone do not.

CREDIBILITY: By nature of your profession, education, and training, people in your community respect and trust you. When you speak on behalf of an issue, you bring credibility to the issue.

INFLUENCE: Because you instill trust and are credible, you can easily inspire others to get involved in children's health issues. Others in your community will be influenced by what you have to say and will want to become part of your efforts.

YOUR PATIENTS ARE DEPENDING ON YOU: The children that you care for can't vote, and many do not have the power to advocate for themselves. They need you to tell their story. Through advocacy, you can help ensure that decision-makers don't just say children's health is a good issue, but actually act on the issue.

PASSION: Advocacy allows you to dig deeper into your interests and touches on why you became a pediatrician in the first place. Through advocacy, you can channel your passion for children's health into meaningful and lasting change.

SKILLS: Pediatricians already have the skill set of an advocate. The same skills you use every day to establish trust, develop relationships, and provide solutions to your patients can be applied in your advocacy work.

RESEARCH IS ON YOUR SIDE: The issues you care about are backed up by research. Through advocacy, you can convey both the personal and factual importance of your issue.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE: Through advocacy, you join other pediatricians who—through the AAP, chapters, residency training, and community partnerships—are making children's health a priority. This demonstrates strength in numbers.

PART OF THE PROFESSION: Pediatricians founded the AAP in part to ensure that patient advocacy received a higher priority. Advocacy allows you to help improve the lives of your patients and the strength of your profession at the same time.