

# Rhode Island Chapter

INCORPORATED IN RHODE ISLAND

## American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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American Academy of Pediatrics  
Rhode Island Chapter  
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Senator Jack Reed

U.S. District Courthouse

One Exchange Terrace, Suite 408

Providence, RI 02903-1744

Dear Senator Reed,

As you know, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics represents pediatricians practicing general and specialty pediatrics across the state. We are grateful to the support that you have always shown as we work together as partners on the shared goals of supporting the children and families of Rhode Island.

Rhode Island has been a leader in acting quickly during this COVID-19 pandemic. Last week, it was reported that our state topped the nation in aggressive responses to the pandemic. On behalf of our members, we want to thank you for your work in supporting all healthcare workers during this unprecedented time. We appreciate your dedication to do everything you can to make sure that we have the personal protective equipment we need to safely care for coronavirus patients. In outpatient practices and hospital settings across Rhode Island, we are already seeing shortages. Our members are reporting:

- Wearing masks designed for single patient use all day long and for multiple days, until the integrity of the mask is clearly compromised.
- Searching online through home improvement store websites for masks.
- Reaching out to healthcare partners, such as dental offices, already forced to close, to ask if they are able to share their own inventory of masks.

Medical professionals caring for patients during this pandemic do so at great personal risk to their health and safety, especially without proper protective equipment. We are counting on you to make sure we have the masks, gloves, gowns, and equipment we need to safely care for our patients and protect ourselves. You have been our partner on many policy and legislative issues. We know we can count on you in this instance, as well. Please act immediately with

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your colleagues to protect frontline physicians responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by doing everything in your power to increase the supply of personal protective equipment. Thank you again for your ongoing efforts and support.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gregory Fox, MD, FAAP.

Gregory Fox, MD, FAAP

President, Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Handwritten signature of Allison Brindle, MD, FAAP.

Allison Brindle, MD, FAAP

Vice President, Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics