

Quotes: Leading Child Health Organizations File Amicus Brief Urging Supreme Court to Affirm Section 1983

American Academy of Pediatrics

“Medicaid promises children the right care, at the right time, in the right setting. Thanks to the EPSDT benefit, children enrolled in Medicaid are entitled to the individualized health care they need to grow, develop, and thrive. Pediatricians understand that without access to timely health care, children’s health suffers. Children and families need the protections in place that ensure they receive the care they are entitled to without delay or unnecessary barriers.”

- Moira Szilagyi, MD, PhD, FAAP President of American Academy of Pediatrics

Children’s Hospital Association

“Children’s hospitals care for the most medically complex children in the country, most of whom rely on Medicaid. When their rights are restricted under Medicaid, their health outcomes are put at risk. Congress has long supported families’ ability to seek recourse for their children under Section 1983 and we urge the Court to acknowledge this intent.”

- Mark Wietecha, CEO of Children’s Hospital Association

Family Voices

“Children have a right to access services for which they are eligible through Medicaid. They must be able to enforce this right to ensure that each state fulfills their obligation so that every child can access the health care that is medically necessary for their health and development. Ensuring that children have access to healthcare is central to our work at Family Voices. We are proud and grateful to join in this important Amicus Brief.”

- Nora Wells, Executive Director of Family Voices

First Focus on Children

“Each and every child in this country deserves the medical care their provider deems necessary. Medicaid, and in particular its Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment requirement, keeps the nation’s children healthy. We call on the Court to uphold this most basic right of families to retain and protect their access to these services, especially when states or other entities work to unjustly threaten that access.”

- Bruce Lesley, President of First Focus on Children

Georgetown University Center for Children and Families and Research Professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy

“We joined this amicus brief to defend the federal rights of children enrolled in Medicaid to timely access to comprehensive health care and appropriate treatment to support their healthy development. Delay or denial of physician recommended services and treatment for children can have lifelong consequences and prevent them from achieving

their full potential. A robust and growing body of research shows that Medicaid for children is associated with many long-term benefits including better health, reduced disability, greater educational attainment, and better financial security in adulthood. Section 1983 is a critical tool for enforcing state compliance with Medicaid requirements for the benefit of about 35 million children."

- Joan Alker, Executive Director of the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families and Research Professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

"Research shows that Medicaid is a key determinant for enrolled children in living longer, healthier lives. Pediatric nurse practitioners have been on the front line caring for America's most vulnerable children since 1965 and have seen firsthand how the program can positively impact children and their families. We must protect children's access to Medicaid coverage from states' political maneuvering."

- Jennifer Sonney, PhD, APRN, PPCNP-BC, FAANP, President of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners