

# Rhode Island Chapter

INCORPORATED IN RHODE ISLAND

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



3/5/2026

## **Officers**

### **President**

Scott Rivkees, MD, FAAP  
Phone: 203/641-2545  
[scott\\_rivkees@brown.edu](mailto:scott_rivkees@brown.edu)

### **Vice President**

Michael Koster, MD, FAAP  
Phone: 401/444-8360  
[michael\\_koster@brown.edu](mailto:michael_koster@brown.edu)

### **Secretary**

Shuba Kamath, MD, FAAP  
Phone: 401/444-8531  
[shuba\\_kamath@brown.edu](mailto:shuba_kamath@brown.edu)

### **Treasurer**

Sara Ford, MD, FAAP  
Phone: 401/444-4612  
[SFord@lifespan.org](mailto:SFord@lifespan.org)

### **Immediate Past President**

Peter Pogacar, MD, FAAP  
Phone: 401/884-8900  
[prpogacar@gmail.com](mailto:prpogacar@gmail.com)

### **Chapter Executive Director**

Jennifer L. Mann, MPH  
Phone: 401/743-1507  
[jmann.aapri@gmail.com](mailto:jmann.aapri@gmail.com)

## **Board of Directors**

Emily Allen, MD, FAAP  
Allison Brindle, MD, FAAP  
Ailis Clyne, MD, FAAP  
Susan Duffy, MD, FAAP  
Gregory Fox, MD, FAAP  
Robert Griffith Jr., MD, FAAP  
Allison, Heinly, MD, FAAP  
Pamela High, MD, FAAP  
Chandan Lakhiani, MD, FAAP  
Elizabeth Lange, MD, FAAP  
Kristin Lombardi, MD, FAAP  
Karen Maule, MD, FAAP  
Beth Toolan, MD, FAAP

### **Mailing Address:**

American Academy of Pediatrics  
Rhode Island Chapter  
PO Box 20365  
Cranston, RI 02920

Arthur J. Corvese  
Chairman, House Labor Committee

Letter in Support of HB-7968

Dear Chairman Corvese and members of the committee,

On the behalf of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I would like to ask for your support of HB-7968, which would expand Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) coverage for Rhode Island workers. I have been thrilled to see the legislature increase this benefit over the past few years, but feel that we can do even better to support working families in Rhode Island.

As a pediatrician who has practiced in Rhode Island for almost 30 years, I have seen the impact of Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) and TCI on families, particularly as they navigate the early months of a newborn's life or stay home to support a child after the diagnosis of a chronic illness. Most working moms receive 6-8 weeks of TDI to recover from delivery before TCI kicks in for an additional 8 weeks, if they are able to afford to take it.

Adding an additional 4 weeks to TCI would have a huge impact on a mother's ability to care for a young infant, as developmentally so much is changing in those early months. In general, the difference between a 3 ½ to 4 month old and a 5 month old is the difference between a baby who is up through the night and one that has a more consistent sleep schedule; one that is more fully dependent on their mother for all of their needs and one that is more socially aware and able to interact with other caregivers. Allowing for an extra month for moms to bond with their babies will have an impact well beyond the infant years.

In addition to the impact on growing families, HB-7968 expands the reach of TDI to allow for coverage for grandparents and other primary caregivers to provide care for ill children, and allows self employed or sole proprietors to opt in to this program. Allowing all Rhode Island workers access to TDI would be a huge win for families who are affected by serious illness, and will improve the lives of both children and caregivers who live and work in our state. I encourage you to continue your important work in this area, and pass HB-7968.

Sincerely,

Gregory Fox, MD, FAAP  
Past-president, Advocacy chair  
Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics