

Rhode Island Chapter

INCORPORATED IN RHODE ISLAND

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



3/13/2026

Officers

President

Scott Rivkees, MD, FAAP
Phone: 203/641-2545
scott_rivkees@brown.edu

Vice President

Michael Koster, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/444-8360
michael_koster@brown.edu

Secretary

Shuba Kamath, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/444-8531
shuba_kamath@brown.edu

Treasurer

Sara Ford, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/444-4612
SFord@lifespan.org

Immediate Past President

Peter Pogacar, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/884-8900
prpogacar@gmail.com

Chapter Executive Director

Jennifer L. Mann, MPH
Phone: 401/743-1507
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

RIAAP opposition to The Children's Cardiac Safety Act (SB2652)

Dear Chairwoman Gallo and members of the committee,

The Rhode Island Chapter of The American Academy of Pediatrics (RIAAP) can not support Senate Bill 2652 as written. While the intention of the authors is no doubt to minimize cardiac death in our state's school age population, we have multiple concerns.

1) The bill limits the scope to cover only those involved in organized sports. In fact all children are indeed considered to be active and carry the same cardiac risks with activity whether that's on a playing field, dance stage, rock climbing wall or VR video game match.

2) All children already require an annual physical and the RIAAP already recommends cardiac screening questioning of all children every year with referral to pediatric cardiology for all those at risk.

3) The bill calls for sports preparticipation forms to be created, signed and processed every sports season creating an additional administrative burden on a system that is already overwhelmed. Producing such forms for all sports teams does not represent increased safety for the students. Annual questioning and documentation with appropriate referral is the standard and the recommendation of the national organizations mentioned in the bill who are the experts on school safety and pediatric cardiac conditions including sudden death.

It is the hope of RIAAP's leadership that the authors of this bill will accept our offer and work together to reexamine this issue to create the best possible outcomes for all our students.

Respectfully,

Peter Pogacar MD FAAP
Immediate Past President
Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics