

## Georgia Chapter

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### American Academy of Pediatrics

February 3, 2016

#### Sample Email message to your State Senator or State Representative

*Please modify to fit your circumstances and add “your voice.” Above all, be respectful in tone. First, call their office and leave a message as to who you are and that you are sending the Rep. or Senator an Email message regarding the Medicaid payment budget item for physician services.*

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_ (or Rep. \_\_\_\_\_)

I am a pediatrician who has practiced for xx years at Sunnyside Pediatrics and live in your district. (Or I am a pediatrician whose practice, Sunnyside Pediatrics, is located in your district.)

My practice serves both children with commercial insurance and those children on Medicaid & Peachcare. Routine medical care for children—in their “medical home—their regular doctor’s office is so important for children. Preventive care and regular check-ups ensure that the child remains healthy and that any condition or disease is diagnosed early and the child can receive the needed treatment.

However, my (*our practice’s*) ability to continue to provide that care to the children in our area is now threatened by chronically low reimbursement from Medicaid. Here in Georgia, Medicaid pays only 65% of what Medicare pays, for the care of a senior citizen. And for the services which I provide for my privately insured patients, it pays only about 50% of that.

Medicaid payments directly impact our practice’s participation in the Medicaid program and this is a key factor in ensuring that these children—who make of nearly 70% of the Medicaid patient population—get the care they need.

In my practice we have discussed....(*options re dealing with poor Medicaid payments, closing to Medicaid patients, reducing Medicaid volume, postponement of expansion plans, closing satellite offices, etc.*)

I urge you to support measures in the Appropriations process to increase Medicaid reimbursement to practices who treat these children. This is especially important in our area, where we have a shortage of pediatricians and other primary care doctors like family medicine and OB/Gyn’s. (*Use this if appropriate and accurate.*) Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Smith, MD  
Sunnyside Pediatrics  
Address and city and phone & email