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Get to know AAP Committee on Federal Government Affairs
by Devin Miller, Washington Correspondent

The AAP Committee on Federal Government Affairs is made up of pediatricians with knowledge and experience in federal advocacy. This month, Brenda Anders Pring, M.D., FAAP, from Massachusetts, answered several questions related to her federal advocacy experience.

What initially sparked your interest in federal advocacy?

Before going into medicine, I spent many years working in Washington in the federal government at the White House and the U.S. Department of Education. As a civil servant, I valued my role working on behalf of Americans. Once I became a pediatrician, it was very natural with my unique background to combine my two careers and formally advocate on behalf of children in Washington.

What is your favorite federal advocacy moment or memory?

One of my most special memories was pushing my infant son in a "stroller brigade" rally for children's health care and the Affordable Care Act at the Capitol with the Children's Defense Fund and the AAP.

What one word would you use to describe an effective child health advocate?

Stories. The patient stories we have as pediatricians and share as advocates are what make us unique and often critical to affecting policy.

Who is your advocacy role model?

Over the past year, I have been awed by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and how she determined there was lead in the drinking water and then became the voice for the children of Flint. She demonstrates what a pediatrician may be in a position to do, and she stepped up and led the way.
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- AAP News story "Attend 2017 AAP Legislative Conference"