



NASPGHAN ADVOCACY – WORKING FOR YOU

NASPGHAN is working hard to represent pediatric gastroenterologists and their patients in Washington, DC with guidance from NASPGHAN's Public Affairs and Advocacy Committee. NASPGHAN's advocacy agenda spans the legislative and regulatory arena focused on issues important to pediatric clinical practice, research, and education.

NASPGHAN's goal is to be a leading authority for policymakers on issues that impact the practice of and access to pediatric subspecialty medicine. NASPGHAN also strives to support the voice of pediatric gastroenterology patients and their families by advocating for initiatives and programs focused on education, prevention, treatment, and access to gastroenterology care.

Collaboration is a pillar of success in Washington. NASPGHAN is focused on building strong, effective relationships with varied stakeholders throughout the health care community to help advance its advocacy agenda.

NASPGHAN leaders and the Public Affairs and Advocacy Committee have identified the following issues as top legislative and regulatory priorities:

- Prevention of Magnet and Battery Ingestions – NASPGHAN continues to establish itself as the leading authority among federal policy makers and regulators on the prevention of magnet ingestions by children. In June, NASPGHAN presented compelling data and ingestion cases to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) officials and members of Congress, which was followed by a CPSC voluntary recall of high-powered magnet sets and a proposed ban on future sales of these products.
- Pediatric Subspecialty Workforce – NASPGHAN is actively lobbying members of Congress and the Administration to fund the pediatric subspecialty loan repayment program established under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). While the ACA authorized funding for the program over five years, the program has yet to be funded. President Obama included funding for the program in his FY2013 budget. However, to date, Congress has resisted funding for the program.
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) – NASPGHAN is committed to raising awareness among policy makers about the need for increased IBD education and research. In 2011, NASPGHAN participated in a Capitol Hill briefing hosted by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of American.
- Medical Foods – There is a need for consistent national coverage and reimbursement of foods for special dietary use for children with chronic diseases or conditions requiring special dietary intervention, including children with chronic gastrointestinal diseases, chronic serious liver disease, and chronic allergic syndromes. NASPGHAN is educating federal lawmakers about the importance of this issue to the pediatric gastroenterology patient community.
- Nutrition and Obesity – Obesity is associated with significant health problems, including gastrointestinal/hepatic conditions that are treated by pediatric gastroenterologists. NASPGHAN is exploring leadership opportunities and new collaborative partnerships to help elevate its voice in the nutrition and obesity policy arenas. NASPGHAN is a member of two national coalitions focused on improving nutrition, increasing physical activity and reducing obesity. Both coalitions are organized by the Center for Science in the Public Interest.
- Medical Research – Federal funding for medical research conducted through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is at risk in the current budget environment. NASPGHAN is reminding lawmakers that they have choices when it comes to budget priorities and that sustained funding for medical research conducted through the NIH is critical.

NASPGHAN is also working on important regulatory issues such as implementation of state health exchanges and the definition of essential health benefits, changes in regulations covering human research subjects, as well as the labeling of gluten in medicine. Information about these and other issues is available at www.naspghan.org.

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