

American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

## **Position Statement: David L. Hill, MD, FAAP**

As pediatricians nothing brings us greater joy than to see a child thrive. And children thrive when our profession thrives. Children and pediatricians alike need safe, stable, nurturing relationships to flourish, relationships the AAP fosters and empowers.

Changing social, political, and economic forces threaten both our patients' wellbeing and our own. For example, it has never been clearer that equity and inclusion prove critical to children's wellbeing, yet some seek to marginalize families based on ethnicity, gender identity, or immigration status, and many communities face inadequate resources. COVID-19 inspired heroic efforts from so many in healthcare, yet we witness waning trust in science and in the relationships that undergird that care. A mental health crisis is enveloping both our patients and our colleagues, and still we see our resources eroded, undermining our wellbeing and that of the young people we serve.

The coming years will demand of us a concerted all-hands advocacy mission. Together we must support each other and engage those who share differing perspectives, listening with curiosity and humility, and seeking ground where we can all agree: our top priority must be the wellbeing of all children.

These are the sorts of conversations I practice every day—as a hospitalist and a community pediatrician, in rural and in urban practice, in English and in Spanish, as an educator, a medical communicator, and a father of five. These are the conversations I will cultivate and champion, so that pediatricians and the patients we serve can thrive, together.