



## PPC Action Alert

### Urgent Opportunity for Pediatric Subspecialty Advocacy

We're reaching out with an **urgent advocacy opportunity** to address shortages of pediatric medical subspecialists, pediatric surgical specialists, and child mental health professionals.

Help us advocate for **funding for the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program** to ensure children can receive the specialized care they need.

It is critical that **your lawmakers hear from you as soon as possible.**

Our advocacy efforts have been paying off. In large part due to your advocacy, Congress has now provided three years of funding for this program. The first 122 awards were issued last fall. The program provides \$100,000 in loan repayment for pediatric medical subspecialists, pediatric surgical specialists, and child mental health professionals who care for children in underserved areas.

**More funding is needed to expand the program's reach.**

***Here's where we need your help:***

A letter is circulating in the Senate asking lawmakers to support funding for this program for Fiscal Year 2025.

The letter is being circulated by Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), a gastroenterologist.

Our goal is to get as many U.S. senators as possible to sign these letters. **Please reach out as soon as possible to let them know how important funding for this program is!**

**Contact your lawmakers and ask them to sign the letters and show their support.**

### Contact Your Senators Today and Ask Them to Show Their Support for PSLRP

***Here's how:***

**By Phone:** You can call the **U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121** to be connected to your U.S. representative's and senators' offices. Or you can go to **Senate.gov** to find contact information. The contact information for their Washington, DC, office is available on their websites.

Reach out to your U.S. senators today and urge them to sign the letter of support being circulated by their colleagues for funding for the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program. You can reach out to them by phone or email. If you have time, you can call and then follow-up via email to maximize your impact.

### Talking points

- Hello. My name is {First and last name} from {City/State}. I am an academic pediatrician specializing in {insert your area of research expertise, e.g., endocrinologist, etc.}, and I am calling today to urge {Senator's name} to sign Sen. Reed and Sen. Cassidy's letter supporting funding for the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program.
- Across the country, there are significant shortages of pediatric subspecialists and child and adolescent psychiatrists. These are physicians with special training for taking care of children with special health care or mental health needs.
- These shortages lead to long travel distances for parents seeking care for their children and long appointment wait times.
- Many pediatric researchers are trained as subspecialists and dedicate their careers to research on complex health needs like Type 1 diabetes and autism spectrum disorder. Shortages of pediatric subspecialists may also slow the development of the next generation of treatments and cures for young people.
- The Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program will help increase access to pediatric subspecialists who provide care in underserved and rural areas.
- I hope {Senator's name} will consider supporting funding for the program and sign the letter.
- Thank you for all you do for children.

**By Email:** You can email your members of Congress through their websites. You can find your U.S. senators by going to [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) and using the "Find Your Senators" feature at the top left of the page. Email your senators through the contact form on their website using the template text below.

You can customize this email by adding an additional paragraph with specific information about yourself and your state, such as this:

I am an academic pediatrician specializing in {insert your area of research expertise e.g., infectious diseases, etc.}, which means I am {insert potential practical outcome of research e.g., looking for a cure for Type 1 diabetes}.

#### Email text:

*Subject: Strengthen Child Health and Mental Health in Rural and Underserved Areas*

*As a constituent, I'm urging you to sign Senator Bill Cassidy and Senator Jack Reed's letter supporting funding for the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program in FY 2025.*

*Millions of children reside 1.5 hours or more from needed specialty care. Across the country, there are significant shortages of pediatric subspecialists and child and adolescent psychiatrists, which lead to long travel distances and appointment wait times.*

*There is also a disparity in the geographic distribution of pediatric subspecialists, resulting in many children in underserved rural and urban areas not receiving timely care. For children with complex medical conditions, their ability to see the right doctor in a reasonable amount of time should not be determined by where they live.*

*This program will help increase access to pediatric subspecialists. An increased investment will help expand its reach. It will provide \$100,000 in loan repayment in exchange for three years of providing care for an underserved area, helping address the economic factors that discourage individuals from subspecializing.*

*Please consider supporting funding for this program and sign the letter being circulated by Senators Reed and Cassidy. Contact Jill Boland in Sen. Reed's office or Ron Anderson in Sen. Cassidy's office for more information.*

*Thank you.*