



## PPC Action Alert

### Urgent Opportunity for Pediatric Subspecialty Advocacy

We are reaching out with a **timely 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 Specialty Loan Repayment Program (PSLRP)** to ensure children can receive the specialized care they need.

**Background on PSLRP:** In large part due to your advocacy, Congress has provided five years of funding for PSLRP. The program provides \$100,000 in loan repayment for pediatric medical subspecialists, pediatric surgical specialists, and child mental health professionals who provide care for children in underserved areas, addressing critical shortages of these highly trained professionals by lessening financial disincentives to pursuing pediatric specialty training.

**That's where we need your help!** The initial investments in PSLRP have been a crucial step forward, but **more funding is needed in FY 2027 to expand the program's reach.**

Two members of the House – Rep. Kim Schrier (D-Wash.) and Rep. John Joyce (R-Pa.), a pediatrician and dermatologist, respectively – are circulating a bipartisan letter and asking all their colleagues in the House to join them in signing it. The letter asks for \$30 million in funding for the Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program. Our goal is to get as many lawmakers as possible to sign these letters to show House appropriators the breadth of support for the program.

But the deadline for your representatives to sign this letter is March 25 – so we need you to take action now! **Please consider reaching out to your U.S. representative as soon as possible and ask them to sign the Schrier/Joyce letter of support for \$30 million in funding for the Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program!** A template email and phone script specifically for contacting your U.S. representative is available below.

*We expect a similar funding request letter will be circulating in the Senate later this spring. We will be back in touch at that point to ask for you to reach out to your senators as well.*

### Contact Your Representative Today

Reach out to your U.S. representative today and urge them to sign the Schrier/Joyce letter of support for \$30 million in funding for the Pediatric Specialty 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.

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

### **Talking points**

- Hello. My name is {First and last name} from {City/State}. I am an academic pediatrician {insert your area of research expertise e.g., pediatric endocrinology, etc.}, and I am calling today to urge {Representative's name} to sign Representative Schrier and Representative Joyce's letter supporting \$30 million in funding for the Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program.
- Across the country, there are significant shortages of pediatric subspecialists and child and adolescent psychiatrists. These are physicians with special training to take 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 for developmental screenings, care for type 1 diabetes, and other essential care.
- 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 Specialty Loan Repayment Program will help increase access to pediatric subspecialists who provide care in underserved and rural areas.
- I hope {Representative's name} will consider supporting funding for the program and sign Representative Schrier and Joyce's letter. The deadline to join is March 25 at 12:00 pm ET.
- Thank you for all you do for children.

**By Email:** You can email your representative through their website. You can find your U.S. representative by going to [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) and using the "Find Your Representative" feature at the top right of the page. Email your U.S. representative through the contact form on their websites.

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 Representative Kim Schrier and Representative John Joyce's letter supporting \$30 million in funding for the Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program in FY 2027.*

*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 for developmental screenings, care for type 1 diabetes, and other essential care.*

*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.*

*The Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program will help increase access to pediatric subspecialists who provide care in underserved and rural areas. 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 \$30 million in funding for this program and sign the letter being circulated by Representatives Schrier and Joyce. Contact Amy Zhou in Rep. Schrier's office or Matt Tucker in Rep. Joyce's office for more information. The deadline to join is March 25 at 12:00 pm ET.*

*Thank you.*