

Rhode Island Chapter

INCORPORATED IN RHODE ISLAND

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



March 29, 2024

Officers

President

Peter Pogacar, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/884-8900
prpogacar@gmail.com

Vice President

Scott Rivkees, MD, FAAP
Phone: 203/641-2545
scott_rivkees@brown.edu

Secretary

Shuba Kamath, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/444-8531
shuba_kamath@brown.edu

Treasurer

Sara Ford, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/444-4612
SFord@lifespan.org

Immediate Past President

Allison Brindle, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/444-8531
allisonbrindle@gmail.com

Chapter Executive Director

Jennifer L. Mann, MPH
Phone: 401/743-1507
jmann.aapri@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Emily Allen, MD, FAAP
Ailis Clyne, MD, FAAP
Diane DerMarderosian, MD, FAAP
Susan Duffy, MD, FAAP
Patricia J. Flanagan, MD, FAAP
Gregory Fox, MD, FAAP
Natalie Golova, MD, FAAP
Allison, Heinly, MD, FAAP
Pamela High, MD, FAAP
William H. Hollinshead, MD, FAAP
Chandan Lakhiani, MD, FAAP
Elizabeth Lange, MD, FAAP
Kristin Lombardi, MD, FAAP
Karen Maule, MD, FAAP
Beth Toolan, MD, FAAP

Mailing Address:

American Academy of Pediatrics
Rhode Island Chapter
PO Box 20365
Cranston, RI 02920

House Education Committee
House Bill 8102 School Emergency Drill Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (RIAAP) respectfully supports passage of House Bill 8102. The RIAAP represents over 200 pediatricians practicing in primary and subspecialty care across the state. Regardless of our practice location or specialty, we care for children who attend school and are impacted by the number and logistics of Emergency Drills performed at their school. Even though the intent of the drills is to promote safety and security, frequent drills have been known to have adverse effects on students' mental health.

H-8102 represents an important step in promoting security while avoiding injury to those we seek to protect. We are encouraged to see the number of required drills per year decrease with an appropriate emphasis on the training of adults and trauma-informed guidance from child healthcare professionals.

These concerns are not isolated to Rhode Island, the topic regarding childhood trauma and safety during Emergency Drills has been well studied. The RIAAP has submitted internet links to two professional summary articles to the Committee Clerk for your review.

On behalf of all the members of the RIAAP we thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Peter Pogacar, MD, FAAP
President, American Academy of Pediatrics, RI Chapter