



## Colorado Chapter

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P.O. Box 4834  
Englewood, CO 80155  
Phone: 303-770-6048  
Fax: 303-771-2550  
www.coloradoaap.org

### Colorado Chapter Executive Committee

#### President

Steve Federico, MD, FAAP  
1001 Yosemite Street  
Suite 200 MC 1916  
Denver, CO 80220

#### Vice President

Kathryn Wells, MD, FAAP  
2848 Florence Street  
Denver, CO 80238

#### Secretary

Maya Bunik, MD, FAAP  
13123 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Ave, B032  
Aurora, CO 80045

#### Treasurer

Barb Zind, MD, FAAP  
319 Quail  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

#### Chapter Executive Director

Carol A. Goddard  
P.O. Box 4834  
Englewood, CO 80155

#### Immediate Past President

Susan Townsend, MD, FAAP  
5450 Autumn Court  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

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Representative Kagan and Members of the House Economic and Business Development Committee,

The Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (CO-AAP) is pleased to offer support for House Bill 12-1174, regarding a prohibition on children's products containing Bisphenol A (BPA). As statewide advocates for infant and child health, the CO-AAP's pediatricians are acutely aware of the effects harmful chemicals may have on an infant's development. While studies surrounding BPA are relatively new, the CO-AAP is supportive of the Federal Drug Administration's interim recommendations.

Specifically, the CO-AAP supports reasonable steps to reduce infant exposure to BPA in the food supply. While the CO-AAP holds that breastfeeding is the optimal source of nutrition for infants, we understand that circumstances may arise where breastfeeding is not possible. In those cases, it is important not to expose infants to potentially harmful chemicals, such as BPA, as the long term effects of such exposure is unknown.

However, we do know that infants are a potentially sensitive population for BPA as their neurological and endocrine systems are developing. Additionally, an infant's hepatic system for detoxification and elimination of foreign substances, such as BPA, is immature and they are unable to process these substances.

With regards to the FDA recommendations, the CO-AAP is supportive of the manufacturing industry's actions to stop producing BPA-containing bottles and infant feeding cups for the U.S. market. It is our understanding that over the past year, major manufacturers have stopped selling these products and we are supportive of such efforts. The CO-AAP is also supportive of the infant formula manufacturing industry's willingness to explore other options to BPA for lining infant formula cans. While we do not recommend changing the use of infant formula, as the benefits of a stable source of nutrition is the most important priority for an infant's development, the CO-AAP does applaud the move away from BPA lined cans.

We look forward to Colorado joining the handful of other states with similar legislation, and we thank Representative Kagan for his leadership on this important child health issue. On behalf of Colorado's pediatricians, we urge the Committee to support HB 12-1174.