

HAVING KIDS™

Child-first Advocacy

HavingKids.org

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Colleen A. Kraft, MD, MBA, FAAP
President
American Academy of Pediatrics
National Headquarters
345 Park Boulevard
Itasca, IL 60143

Dear Dr. Kraft,

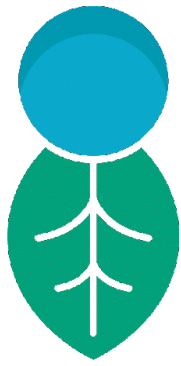
We write to you with great admiration for the work of the American Academy of Pediatrics. We request you consider a new policy statement on what could be the most important issue the Academy has ever faced.

As you know a [recently publicized study in the journal Pediatrics](#) shows that children bear 88 percent of the burden of diseases linked to climate change, which could reverse the progress made over the past 25 years in reducing child mortality. That study follows your recent and prescient policy statement on the need for effective global policy changes to [mitigate the impact of climate change](#).

We are asking the Academy to adopt and advocate for [a new family planning model](#). It is the most effective way to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Pediatricians can, and should, help lead the change to protect the future.

The facts are clear:

- The most effective way to address many of the impacts on our environment and other species, like [climate change](#), is by choosing smaller families. Yes, it's [more effective](#) than changing diet or forms of transportation.
- By 2100 world population could vary by billions of people, depending on [whether the average woman in the world today has one child more or one child fewer in her lifetime](#).



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- Our current family planning systems provide [no minimum standard of wellbeing for future children](#), allowing children to be born into failing state systems because their parents cannot care for them. That exacerbates inequality, and [ensures rich kids stay rich and poor kids stay poor](#).
- [Child-first family planning](#) provides a clear human rights-based solution and path forward. It's sustainable and equitable, and reflected in the [worldwide trend towards smaller families that can invest more in each child](#) and ensure a safer future.

We stand ready to assist with the development of the Academy's new policy on family planning, and appreciate your consideration of this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

Anne Green, PhD

Executive Director

Having Kids

[Having Kids](#) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to reforming family planning by replacing parent-centered family planning models with the human rights-based and child-first Fair Start model.