



Ohio Chapter

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American Academy  
of Pediatrics



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**Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO)  
Announces Historic Investment in Pediatric Health,  
Partnership to Address Suicide and Firearm/Lethal Means Safety**  
*Donation of \$35,000 will support Ohio AAP's Store It Safe Program (SIS)*

**(CLEVELAND, OH – October 1, 2024)** – The Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP) today received a donation in the amount of \$35,000 from the Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF), the charitable wing of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) in honor of the organization's 200<sup>th</sup> year. This donation creates a partnership to address suicide prevention through firearm and lethal means safety, which is a priority for both organizations.

SIS, which was launched in 2015, is a unique partnership of healthcare providers, firearm advocates, and community organizations established to keep children safe from unintentional gun deaths and teens safe from suicide by firearms, medications, or alcohol. SIS trains healthcare providers to screen for depression and suicidality, discuss safe storage of lethal means, distribute safe storage devices, and provide resources to youth and families. Funds secured through this donation will support the spread of Store It Safe education and resources in the Northern Ohio region. Ohio AAP will provide in-person learning sessions, virtual webinars and podcasts, safe storage lockboxes and educational handouts about youth suicide prevention, caregiver crisis planning, and safe firearm ownership.

“Ohio AAP is thrilled to partner with AMNCO to increase access to SIS programs and resources across northern Ohio,” said Melissa Werve Arnold, Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics. “With this donation, we were able to reach our fundraising goal in our \$90k for 90 Years campaign to support SIS, which will allow us expand our safe storage education and lockbox distribution across the state.”

“In recognition of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio is pleased to honor our public health history by providing funding to help expand the work of Store It Safe across Northern Ohio,” Jen Johns, MPH, Executive Director, Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio. “It is critically important that we make great strides in addressing this growing problem. We are confident that by working together we will be able to significantly reduce youth suicide rates in Ohio.”

As part of its bicentennial year, the AMCNO has formed a gun safety coalition. In addition to the AAP investment, AMCNO is also partnering with the City Club of Cleveland to bring trauma surgeon and author [Brian Williams, MD](#) to Cleveland for a public forum on Thursday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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**About ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF CLEVELAND AND NORTHERN OHIO**

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) is a nonprofit 501(c)6 professional organization of over 6,700 physicians and medical students with the mission of supporting physicians in being strong advocates for all patients and promoting the practice of the highest quality of medicine. Founded in 1824, AMCNO has a long history of physician advocacy as the oldest professional organization in Ohio. To learn more, visit [amcno.org/gun-safety-coalition](http://amcno.org/gun-safety-coalition).

**About the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics**

The Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP) promotes the health, safety, and well-being of children and adolescents so they may reach their full potential. The Ohio AAP works to accomplish this by addressing the needs of children, their families, and their communities, and by supporting Chapter members through advocacy, education, research, service, and improving the systems through which they deliver pediatric care. To learn more, visit [OhioAAP.org](http://OhioAAP.org).