

# CMA's Children's Advocacy Agenda

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American Academy of Pediatrics, California – Chapter 2  
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**CALIFORNIA  
MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

## **Mission**

Promote the science and art of medicine, protection of public health, the betterment of the medical profession, and to achieve health equity and justice.

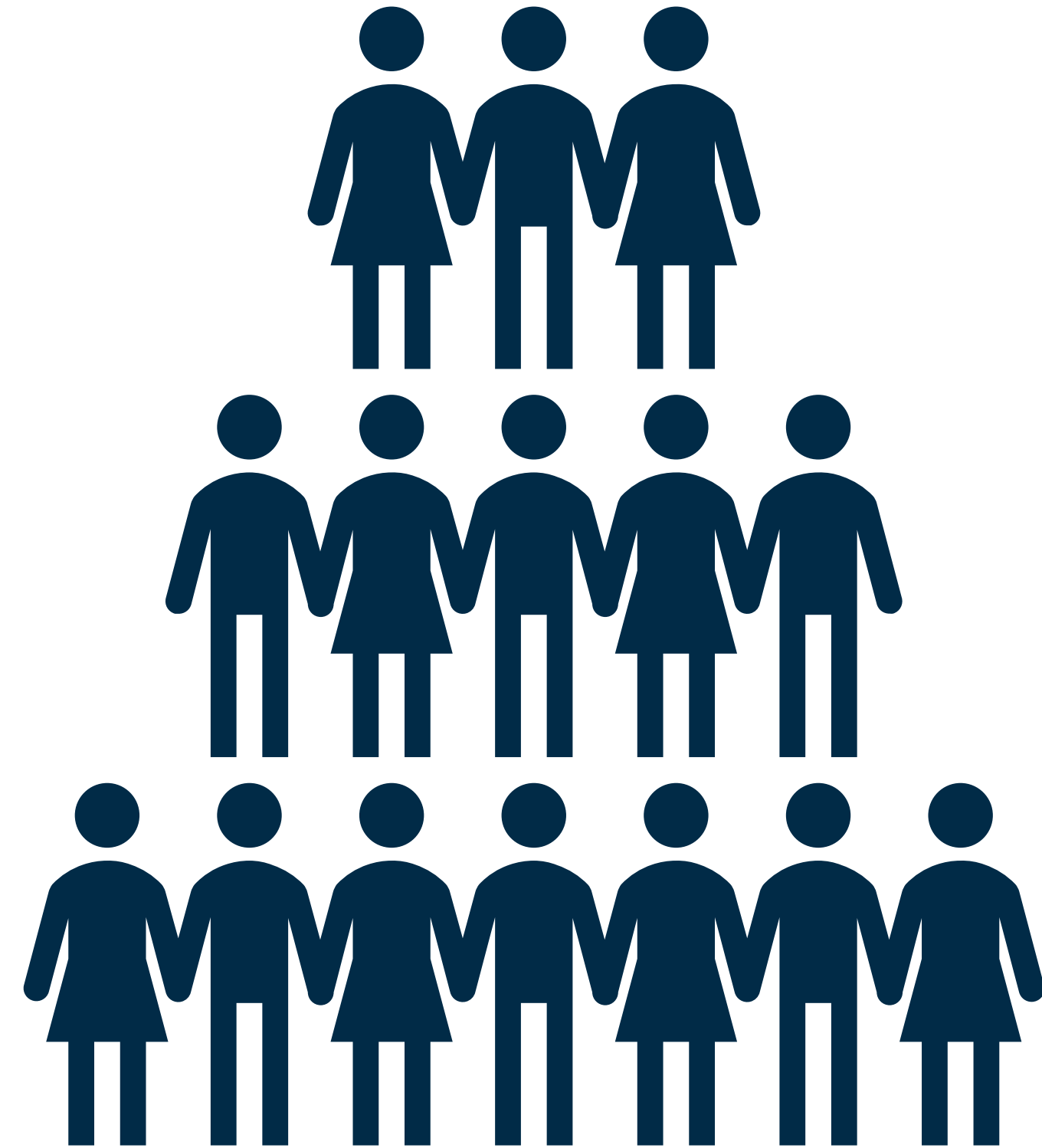


## Who we are

- + Over 50,000 members across the state
- + Membership includes:
  - All modes of practice
  - All specialties
- + Two of seven Executive Committee members are pediatricians

## What we do

- + Provide legislative, legal, regulatory, economic, and social advocacy
- + Provide educational information and comprehensive practice tools



# Issue Areas of Interest



- + Protect the health care safety net
- + Address labor & delivery deserts
- + Ensure access to vaccines and protect CA vaccine policy
- + Defend access to gender affirming care
- + Support robust public health

# Protect the health care safety net/MCO Tax

## + Then

- Passed Prop. 35 (2024)
- Opposed H.R. 1 (2025)

## + Now

- Help navigate implementation of H.R. 1, including eligibility requirements
- Advocate for full implementation of Prop. 35 in 2026
- Craft new MCO tax to meet requirements established by H.R. 1
- Have ideas to undo H.R. 1 cuts ready in case of a congressional change in leadership



# Address L&D deserts

- + Supported creation of a CDPH pilot project to allow up to five critical access hospitals to establish standby perinatal services (SB 669, McGuire, 2025)
- + Includes framework for developing a service using an on-call schedule for the management of obstetric and neonatal emergencies
- + Requires evaluation of the model





# Ensure access to vaccines and protect CA vaccine policy

## + Then

- Sponsored bills to ensure strong school vaccine requirements, SB 277 (Pan, 2015) and SB 276 (Pan, 2019)
- Supported AB 144 (Budget, 2025)
  - Established California's baseline for vaccine coverage as the immunization schedule recommended by ACIP as of January 1, 2025
  - Authorized the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to modify these baseline recommendations, considering guidance from leading medical organizations such as the AAP
  - Provided liability protections for people providing immunizations in accordance with CDPH recommendations through January 1, 2030

## + Now

- Support AAP's 2026 vaccine recommendations
- Oppose SB 1377 (Jones), which seeks to undo the process established in SB 276 that allows CDPH to review medical exemptions for school vaccination

# Defend access to gender affirming care

- + Submitted letters opposing CMS proposals to:
  - Prohibit use of Medicaid funds for gender affirming care
  - Amend the Medicare hospital Conditions of Participation to prohibit gender affirming care



# Robust public health: regulate e-bikes

- + Sponsoring AB 2346 (Wilson) to:
  - Impose a statewide speed limit of 15 mph for riders under 15
  - Set statewide speed limit of 10 mph when riding on a sidewalk
  - Require that all e-bikes sold in CA be equipped with integrated lights and speedometers
  - Require e-bike manufacturers/distributors to provide customers with a summary of e-bike laws and regs
  - Require clear disclosure of what type of e-bikes are for sale



# Increases in e-bike injuries at Rady Children's Health Orange County

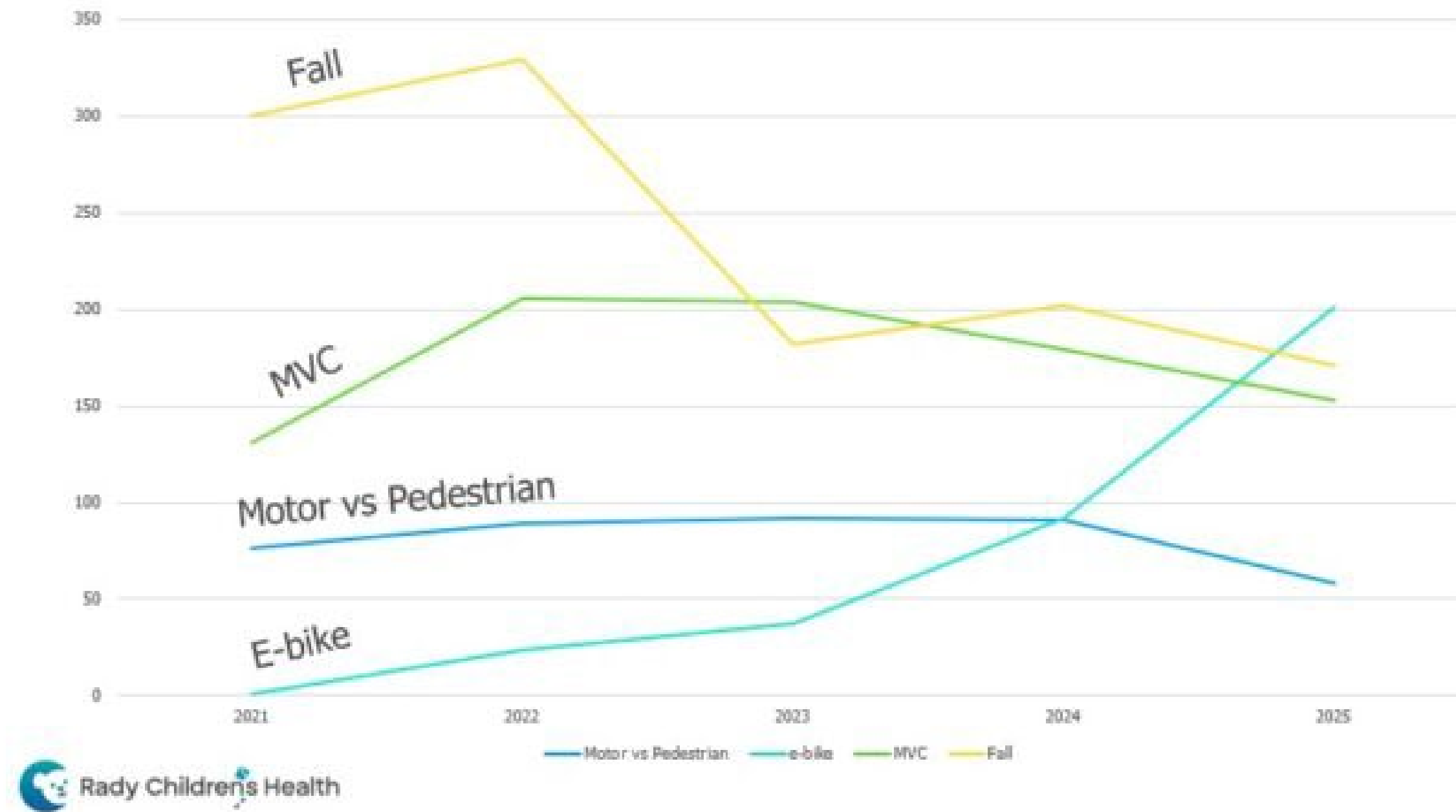
## Rady CHOC E-Bike Trauma Activations by Year



Source: Rady Children's Health, available at <https://care.choc.org/new-rady-childrens-led-e-bike-study-addresses-speed-related-trauma-risk-for-kids-and-teens/>

# Rady CHOC e-bike injuries compared to other mechanisms of injury

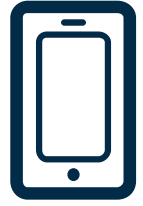
## Rady CHOC Top Trauma Mechanisms of Injury



Source: Rady Children's Health, available at <https://care.choc.org/new-rady-childrens-led-e-bike-study-addresses-speed-related-trauma-risk-for-kids-and-teens/>



# Other hot public health topics this year



## Youth and Technology

- + AB 1644 (Muratsuchi) – Requires schools to have policies prohibiting smartphone use during school by July 1, 2027
- + AB 1709 (Lowenthal) – Restricts social media from establishing accounts for children under 16



## Healthy Dining

- + SB 869 (Weber Pierson) – Requires chain restaurant menus to label drinks with more than 50% of the recommended daily value for added sugar.
- + SB 977 (Weber Pierson) – Requires chain restaurants with children’s meals to offer at least one that is under 550 calories.

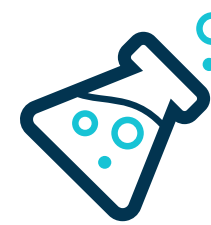




## Nitrous Oxide Misuse

- + AB 2076 (Lowenthal) – Establishes age verification requirements for the sale of nitrous oxide.
- + SB 936 (Blakespear) – Establishes prohibitions on selling nitrous oxide in ways that appeal to minors



# Support for other recent public health laws

-  Phase out ultra-processed foods from school meals by 2032 (AB 1264, Gabriel, 2025)
-  Require prenatal multivitamins, starting January 1, 2027, to be tested for heavy metals (SB 646, Weber Pierson, 2025)
-  Require, beginning in 2027, social media platforms to display mental health warning labels when a child logs on to the platform and after extended use (AB 56, Bauer-Kahan, 2025)



# Something to watch – childhood lead screening regulations

+ CDPH proposal to amend regulations related to childhood lead screening:

- Defines child as a person under 21 years of age
- Lowers blood lead reference value to align with current CDC requirements
- Requires evaluation of whether a patient has lead exposure risks for all patients who are not in a public program for low-income children at 12 and 24 months
- Requires testing when a clinician determines a child is at risk of lead poisoning
- Establishes a specific timeline for follow-up venous blood lead testing when elevated blood lead levels are identified



Thank You