WHEREAS, child health is affected not only by biology and behavior, but also by socio-economic factors present in communities and environments in which they live; and

WHEREAS, low income families can have several unmet legal needs, such as food insecurity, housing problems, and utility arrearages which increase the risks for poor health and potential hospitalizations; and

WHEREAS, low income families facing disproportionately high energy costs are forced to make household budget trade-offs and possibly lead to disconnections, evictions, and homelessness with subsequent threats to a child's physical health; and

WHEREAS the American Bar Association recently passed a resolution “That the American Bar Association encourages lawyers, law firms, legal services agencies, law schools and bar associations to form medical legal partnerships with hospitals, community health care providers and social service organizations to help identify and resolve diverse legal issues that affect patients’ health and well being”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Academy encourage closer and more frequent collaboration between legal service and medical professionals, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Academy promote “medical-legal partnerships,” in which lawyers work with members to identify and resolve legal issues affecting the health and well-being of children.

REFER TO: 2008 Annual Leadership Forum

AUTHOR/CONTACT
PERSON: Benjamin Gitterman MD FAAP
District of Columbia Chapter
111 Michigan Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20010

Telephone: (202) 476-3968
FAX: (202) 476-3386
E-mail: bgitterm@cnmc.org
BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Background from the Community Pediatric Training Initiative (CPTI)

- The AAP Community Pediatric Training Initiative strives to train future pediatricians to engage in interdisciplinary collaborations, community partnerships, and the practices of evidence-based community health care and child advocacy to advance child health in their communities. They promote the health of all children within the context of the family, school, and the community; with a commitment to use a community's resources in collaboration with other professionals, agencies, and parents to achieve optimal accessibility, appropriateness, and quality of services for all children, and to advocate especially for those who lack access to care because of social, cultural, geographic, or economic conditions or special health care needs. Members should be aware that these lawyers are partners in working to protect children.