On January 23, 2018, 10 youth from iCAN KIDS FL, 21 providers from 6 Florida residency programs and Florida AAP Chapter leaders participated in Children’s Week in Tallahassee, Florida. The primary impact of the program is to obtain engagement of new pediatricians and youth in the legislative process and help guide a new generation of engaged citizens by educating them about how bills can be influenced by pediatricians and families.

Program Goals:
• Advocate for children’s health by providing legislative training to pediatric residents and expanding the program to include families and youth.
• Train future pediatricians and youth to be strong, confident, and effective advocates for children and families.

Program Barriers:
• It was difficult to schedule live educational programs around the schedule of 11 pediatric residency programs, school age youth, and working parents.
• The expense and time required for participants to travel to the Capitol. Six of eleven residency programs participated.

Participants also received a tour of senate chambers and met with senator Aaron Bean. The iCAN KIDS FL members were able to participate in a mock legislative session and voted on a current bill.

Youth are critical for strengthening advocacy activities. They provide a reminder to all participants that all legislative changes impact them and their families directly. Youth also provide a fresh perspective on issues that may not have been considered or realized without their involvement.