A Nationwide Network of Doctors
Advocating for Young Children

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Dear Network Members and Supporters,

It is with tremendous pleasure that I take on the position as Executive Director of Docs For Tots. Our two part vision of social justice in health and development for young children and changing the nature of professionalism for children's doctors through increasing civic engagement beyond clinical practice walls have been the guiding principles of my career and life's work. In addition to my work as a practicing pediatrician, I have been with Docs For Tots almost since its inception because of my belief that by engaging physicians in advocacy and through collaborations between children's doctors and advocacy organizations, we can be most effective in creating necessary change for our youngest children. Since my earliest clinical encounters, it has been clear that to effectively promote child health and well being, we must work towards policies and supports for children and families that go far beyond our current clinical tools.

As you know Docs For Tots was founded on the premise that physicians are among society's most trusted and effective messengers for early childhood issues. With your support, I plan to continue growing our network of doctors and expanding our capacity to work on children's issues. We have learned many lessons on how to make it as simple as possible for physicians to advocate for young children as well as how to nurture and support those doctors who would like to invest more significant time in advocacy. Additionally, we are taking great care to frame messages that support infants, toddlers and preschoolers from a physician and health perspective.

We believe strongly that the clinical venue where so many of our youngest children and their families are seen is an arena where we can be doing a far better job at educating families and linking them to meaningful resources and services by providing doctors with tools and supports that challenge the traditional medical encounter and engaging and educating families in a proactive manner before awaiting their interface with pubic systems in place for older children. You will also see an expansion of medical student resident education curricular tools, partnerships and supports to encourage greater inclusion of advocacy and early childhood issues in these settings. We are working to expand our national and local partners to generate the greatest opportunities for physician advocacy.

As we move forward, we hope to bring the physician voice to advocate for young children and to move towards a day when we are no longer seen as unexpected messengers, but rather a supported, vital, but expected participant at the advocacy table for young children.

I look forward to working with you in this role and welcome your thoughts and input as we plan for the future.

I can be contacted at dlieser@docsfortots.org.

Warm Regards and Holiday Cheers,

Dina Lieser, MD, FAAP
Executive Director
Docs For Tots