

AAP-CA Legislation 2007/2008

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Followed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, California District (AAP-CA) representing California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Contact:

Kris Calvin, MA

510-559-8383

AAP-CA Executive Director

510-559-8464 fax

aapcalifornia@aol.com

Bill No.	Bill Title	Date Amended/Intro	Position	Link to AAP-CA Letter
AAP-CA SUPPORTED legislation				
AB 0034	(Portantino) Umbilical cord blood banking: pilot project Umbilical cord blood collection program		Support	Link to letter
AB 0040	(Portantino) Umbilical cord blood banking: advisory council	12/04/06	Support	
AB 0043	(Leno) Gender-neutral marriage	12/04/06	Support	Link to letter
AB 0057	(Soto) Highways: Safe Routes to School construction program.	12/04/06	Support	Link to letter
AB 0090	(Huffman) Pupil nutrition: trans fats	12/04/06	Support	
AB 0092	(Garcia) Pupil nutrition: school meals <breakfast @ low income schools>	12/04/06	Support	
AB 0093	(Garcia) Food: trans fats	12/04/06	Support	Link to letter
AB 0097	(Mendoza) Food: trans fats	12/04/06	Support	
AB 0105	(Lieu) Tanning facilities	01/03/07	Support	
AB 0233	(Jones) Air pollution: Children's Breathing Rights Act: penalties	01/30/07	Support	
AB 0273	(Jones) Public Health: foster children	02/09/07	Support	Link to letter
AB 0335	(De Leon) CalWORKs: aid: homeless assistance	02/13/07	Support	
AB 0606	(Galgiani) Medi-Cal: reimbursement rates	02/21/07	Support	
AB 1429	(Evans) Cervical cancer vaccination	02/23/07	Support	
ACR 006	(Ma) Teenage dating violence	01/08/07	Support	
AJR 019	(Ma) Healthy Families Program	03/05/07	Support	Link to letter
SB 0007	(Oropeza) Smoking in vehicles with minor passengers	12/04/06	Support	Link to letter
SB 0024	(Torlakson) Taxes: cigarette and tobacco products	12/04/06	Support	
SB 0067	(Perata) Vehicles: speed contests and reckless driving	01/17/07	Support	
SB 0104	(Machado) Crisis nurseries	01/17/07	Support	
SB 0119	(Cedillo) Medi-Cal: minors: drug and alcohol treatment	01/22/07	Support	
SB 0120	(Padilla) Food facilities: nutritional information	01/22/07	Support	
SB 0137	(Torlakson) Children's health: medical treatment	01/25/07	Support	
SB 0180	(Migden) Food facilities: nutritional information	02/05/07	Support	
SB 0533	(Yee) Health: immunizations: pneumococcus	02/22/07	Support	
SB 0676	(Ridley-Thomas) Health: immunizations	02/23/07	Support	
SB 0974	(Lowenthal) Port Investment Bill	02/23/07	Support	
SCR 008	(Battin) Child Abuse Prevention Month	02/07/07	Support	

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Bill No.	Bill Title	Date Amended/Intro	Position	Link to AAP-CA Letter
AAP-CA OPPOSED legislation				
AB 1330	(Evans) Foster children: psychotropic drugs: data	02/23/07	Oppose	
AB 1687	(Brownley) Mental health and developmental services: confidential information	02/23/07	Oppose	



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March 28, 2007

The Honorable Jenny Oropeza
California State Senate
P.O. Box 942848
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Re: SB 7, AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Oropeza,

The California District of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP-CA), representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of the four California AAP regional Chapters, supports your proposed legislation SB 7. This bill would prohibit smoking in a car in which children are present.

Children's exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is one of the most hazardous of children's environmental exposures. Children's exposure to ETS has been linked to decreased lung growth and increased rates of respiratory tract infections, otitis media, and childhood asthma, with the severity of these problems increasing with increased exposure. Sudden infant death syndrome, behavioral problems and increased rates of adolescent smoking also are associated with such exposures. SB 7 will help to protect California's children by limiting this exposure while in the enclosed space of motor vehicles. This is the least we can do to help keep our children healthy.

California pediatricians applaud your commitment and leadership in promoting the health and well-being of California's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin, MA
AAP-CA Executive Director

cc: Marc Lerner, MD, Chair, AAP-CA Committee on State Government Affairs
Jackie Miller, Legislative Advocate
Trisha Roth, MD



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March 16, 2007

The Honorable Fiona Ma
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

RE: AJR 19, AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Ma,

The California District of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP-CA), representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of the four California AAP regional Chapters, supports your proposed joint resolution AJR 19. This resolution would urge California's delegation to the Congress to ensure that Congress timely reauthorizes the State Children's Health Insurance Program to assure federal funding for the Healthy Families Program. Furthermore, AJR 19 urges the Governor to work with the Congressional delegation in this regard and provide meaningful assistance to help identify and enroll children who qualify for Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program.

Our ability in California to sustain and expand our Healthy Families program is linked to the reauthorization of the federal State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). California has insured over 700,000 children by expanding Medicaid and implementing Healthy Families using SCHIP funds. Yet, current SCHIP funding levels are not adequate to sustain these existing coverage gains over the coming years, and there are still close to 800,000 uninsured children in California, well over half of whom are estimated to be eligible for either Medicaid or SCHIP.

As Congress prepares to reauthorize SCHIP, the federal government must honor its commitment to support state efforts to low-income, uninsured children. It can do so by providing needed SCHIP funding above current federal levels. If we are to expand the program to help cover the millions of eligible but unenrolled children, the federal government must provide more federal funding.

The AAP-CA is proud of our state's commitment to SCHIP and the Healthy Families program. AAP-CA supports AJR 19's recommendations to California's Congressional delegation and the Governor in order to sustain access to high-quality pediatric care and to promote the health of our state's children.

Sincerely,

Marc Lerner, MD
Chair, AAP-CA Committee on State Government Affairs

cc: Kris Calvin, AAP-CA Executive Director
Jackie Miller, Legislative Advocate



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March 26, 2007

The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

RE: AB 606, AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Galgiani,

The California District of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP-CA), representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of the four California AAP regional Chapters, supports your proposed legislation AB 606. This bill would provide that commencing January 1, 2008, the reimbursement levels for physician and dental services shall be increased by 5%.

California reimbursement rates are among the lowest in the nation, and many pediatric practices are finding it difficult to keep their doors open if they accept Medi-Cal patients. In recent years we have seen evidence throughout California that the combination of low reimbursement and high living costs in the state are driving physicians to other states and to retirement. When surveyed, more than 60% of Medi-Cal recipients report difficulty finding a doctor willing to see them. The shortage is particularly harmful to patients in urban and rural areas, where persistent provider shortages are a problem even for those with insurance. By increasing Medi-Cal provider reimbursement rates by 5%, we are giving Californian's a better chance of accessing appropriate care.

It is critical that children maintain their access to necessary and potentially life-saving healthcare. California pediatricians applaud your leadership in protecting the health and well-being of California's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin
AAP-CA Executive Director

cc: Marc Lerner, MD, Chair, AAP-CA Committee on State Government Affairs
Jackie Miller, Legislative Advocate



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March 20, 2007

The Honorable Dave Jones
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

RE: AB 273, AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Jones,

The California District of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP-CA), representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of the four California AAP regional Chapters, supports your proposed legislation AB 273. This bill would require that foster children receive specified preventive health and dental assessments on a regular basis, and requires the Department of Health Services, under certain conditions, to extend Medi-Cal benefits to foster care adolescents until they reach 21 years of age.

Recent reports published by the American Academy of Pediatrics have shown that many children enter foster care with chronic health, developmental, and psychiatric issues. As proposed, AB 273 would make clear the expectation and requirement that foster children have regular preventive care. Regular dental and health assessments are important for all children, but particularly critical for these children, who are at particularly high risk.

This bill would also extend Medi-Cal coverage for all emancipated foster youth until age 21. Emancipated foster youth often have limited support systems, and therefore do not receive adequate medical coverage. Currently, Medi-Cal recognizes their unique situation and extends coverage to some, but not all emancipated foster youth until age 21. It is important that no emancipated youth be permitted to fall through the cracks and be denied the care they need to support their health at a critical time in their transition to adulthood.

California has a special responsibility to the health of its foster youth. AB 273 will help to ensure that we do a better job of fulfilling that responsibility. California pediatricians applaud your leadership in protecting the health and well-being of California's children in foster care.

Sincerely,

Marc Lerner, MD
Chair, AAP-CA Committee on State Government Affairs

cc: Kris Calvin, AAP-CA Executive Director
Jackie Miller, Legislative Advocate



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April 5, 2007

The Honorable Bonnie Garcia
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

RE: AB 93, AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Garcia,

The California District of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP-CA), representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of the four California AAP regional Chapters, supports your proposed legislation AB 93. This bill would require the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency, by July 1, 2008, to prepare and provide a study to the Legislature on the benefits to public health from the elimination of saturated and trans fat from food facilities in the state.

According to the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine*, trans fats are neither required nor beneficial for health. In fact, studies to date have shown that consumption of trans fatty acids results in considerably increased risk for cardiovascular disease and death. For these reasons, health authorities worldwide recommend that consumption of trans fat be reduced to trace amounts. We at the AAP-CA echo these concerns and similarly support these recommendations.

In this light, we believe that AB 93 is a necessary and important measure that will positively impact the health of California's children and adults.

Sincerely,

Marc Lerner, MD
Chair, AAP-CA Committee on State Government Affairs

** National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine Letter Report on Dietary Reference Intakes for Trans Fatty Acids; Institute of Medicine in the National Academy of Sciences, July 10, 2002.*

cc: Kris Calvin, AAP-CA Executive Director
Jackie Miller, Legislative Advocate



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March 27, 2007

The Honorable Nell Soto
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

RE: AB 57, AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Soto,

The California District of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP-CA), representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of the four California AAP regional Chapters, supports your proposed legislation AB 57. This bill seeks to eliminate the sunset date for the "Safe Routes to School" construction program in the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) and makes statutory changes in the Streets and Highways code to conform to federal law. The bill calls for federal safety funds to continue to be allocated in equal amounts to state highways, local roads and Safe Routes to School Construction.

Safe Routes to School is a critical component of addressing the facts that fewer children are walking and biking and more parents are driving children. Furthermore, these programs will contribute to our efforts to combat the California childhood obesity epidemic by promoting physical activity in safe environments. These funds have been used effectively in California to improve safety, reduce traffic, reduce air pollution and reduce fuel consumption in the vicinity of schools. The health of our children and families will be promoted by passage of AB 57.

The American Academy of Pediatrics provides representation to the national Safe Routes to School Task Force to the Secretary of Transportation. This Task Force was created pursuant to section 1404 (h) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Pub L. 109-59.) By passage of AB 57, Californians will demonstrate a state-wide commitment to this important opportunity to improve both the health and safety of our children.

California pediatricians applaud your leadership in protecting the health of California's children and families with the introduction of AB 57.

Sincerely,

Marc Lerner, MD
Chair, AAP-CA Committee on State Government Affairs

cc: Kris Calvin, AAP-CA Executive Director
Jackie Miller, Legislative Advocate
Phyllis Agran, MD, MPH

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



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January 16, 2007

The Honorable Mark Leno
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

RE: AB 43, AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Leno,

The California District of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP-CA), representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of the four California AAP regional Chapters, supports your proposed legislation AB 43. This bill would provide that marriage is a personal relation arising out of a civil contract between two persons.

AAP-CA is dedicated to obtaining optimal health and well-being for all infants, children and youth in California. Approximately 60,000 children in California are being raised by same-sex parents. These children are our patients, and we believe in their right to health and well-being, like every other California child.

Each religion determines its own rituals, ceremonies and traditions, including criteria for a religious marriage, within that faith. That is not the province of medicine, and the AAP-CA does not presume to comment upon it. However, civil marriage is different, as it constitutes a legal contract that is recognized by the state. Further, civil marriage brings with it over 1,000 rights, protections and benefits, many of which are critical factors in the health and well-being of children in those families. These include health insurance through a spouse's employer, the ability to make medical decisions for children, and social security benefits for children. It is discriminatory to exclude children in same-sex couple families from these state-sanctioned benefits. It is on that basis that AAP-CA supports non-discriminatory civil marriage laws in California.

California pediatricians applaud your leadership in protecting the health and well-being of all children in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin, MA
AAP-CA Executive Director

cc: Marc Lerner, MD, Chair, AAP-CA SGA Committee
Jackie Miller, Legislative Advocate



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March 23, 2007

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

RE: AB 34, AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Portantino,

The California District of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP-CA), representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of the four California AAP regional Chapters, supports your proposed legislation AB 34. This bill would establish the California Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program for ten years within the Department of Public Health to collect umbilical cord blood for public use. The Legislature and Governor will appoint members to an implementing committee that will be charged to structure the program, set policy, and develop a competitive process for participation.

The stem cells found in the umbilical cord after a baby is born is a rich resource stem cell that can be used for treatment of at least 70 conditions, including genetic disorders and cancers, such as sickle cell anemia and leukemia. Umbilical cord blood is typically discarded after a birth. In the last two decades, since determining the viability of using it for stem cell transplants, umbilical cord blood began to be banked for future use. The procedure – conducted after birth – is painless, quick, and risk-free for the mother and the newborn. Some families have chosen to privately bank in the event a member of their own family might have a condition for which a stem cell transplant is needed. However, major authorities on the subject, the Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have stated the most effective use of umbilical cord blood is to publicly bank for public use.

Cord blood transplantation has been shown to be curative in patients with a variety of serious diseases. Unfortunately, approximately 35,000 people who search registries are unable to find suitable donors, and many die as a result. While this is a problem for all people, it is particularly troublesome for underserved minorities who are less likely to find matches. For this reason, AB 34 directs the state to seek genetically diverse collections to ensure an adequate inventory that mirrors California's population.

AB 34 is an important bill that will serve to provide an invaluable resource for all Californians in times of critical need. Not only will an adequate inventory save lives, but improve the quality of lives for those who suffer chronic illness.

Sincerely,

Marc Lerner, MD
Chair, AAP-CA Committee on State Government Affairs

cc: Kris Calvin, AAP-CA Executive Director
Jackie Miller, Legislative Advocate



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April 9, 2007

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 137/Torlakson, AAP-CA Position-SUPPORT

Dear Senator Kuehl:

The California District of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP-CA), representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of the four California AAP regional Chapters, supports SB 137 (Torlakson). This bill would increase protection for California's sickest children.

SB 137 would expand eligibility for California Children's Services Program (CCS) so that more children with catastrophic and chronic health conditions have coverage for needed medical care. In 1982, the CCS family income eligibility was \$100,000. This was drastically decreased to \$40,000. Eligibility was never adjusted, causing more children to be ineligible for the program each year.

The 2000 Senate Office of Research report, "California's Ailing System of Caring for Children with Special Health Care Needs," called the CCS financial eligibility standard "outdated." SB 137 will more realistically address the tremendous financial burdens that a child's special health conditions often impose on families. This is the least we can do to help our sickest children.

California pediatricians urge your YES vote on this important bill when it is heard in the Senate Health Committee.

Sincerely,

Marc Lerner, MD
Chair, AAP-CA Committee on State Government Affairs

cc: Senator Tom Torlakson
Kris Calvin, MA, AAP-CA Executive Director
AAP-CA Executive Board
AAP-CA Committee on State Government Affairs
Jackie Miller, Legislative Advocate
Erin Aaberg Givans, Children's Specialty Care Coalition