



May 10, 2018

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ?SB 1109 (Bates) Controlled substances: Schedule II drugs: opioids
AAP-CA Position: Support (As amended, May 5th, 2018)

Dear Chair Lara,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports proposed legislation SB 1109 (Bates), as amended May 5th, 2018, which ensures that the Medical Board of California (MBC) adds relevant curriculum on addiction to the current pain management continuing medical education requirement for physicians and surgeons.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) state that nearly 2 million Americans 12 years of age or older either abused or were dependent on opioid painkillers in 2013 and 2.6 of 100,000 people in the United States between the ages of 15 and 24 died of prescription opioid overdose. A study of illicit drug use among teens found that opioids accounted for 79% of the significant morbidity and 100% of deaths.¹ This bill takes positive steps to address the potential harm to youth when they misuse opioids, and appropriately educates parents and physicians in effective, non-burdensome ways.

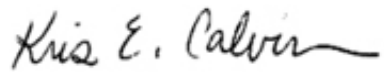
SB 1109 (Bates), as amended makes positive changes in its physician education requirement, by ensuring that the Medical Board of California (MBC) adds relevant curriculum on addiction to the current pain management continuing medical education requirement for physicians and surgeons. This does not add to the workload of the Medical Board as it will not require additional hours of auditing, but rather would require the sub-accrediting entities under the American Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to ensure that the courses they approve contain relevant information to physicians.

AAPCA appreciates all of the work the author and sponsors have done to ensure this legislation will not place undue burden on patients and physicians, while effectively instituting measures that will provide outreach and education on opioid use disorders and the potential for addiction in youth.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide urge you to vote AYE on proposed legislation SB 1109 (Bates) as amended.

Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

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

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: The Honorable Patricia Bates, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Samantha Lui, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne

¹ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2502219#ped160010r3>