



February 24, 2017

The Honorable Connie Leyva
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4920

RE: SB 210 (Leyva): Drinking Water
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Leyva:

I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, to let you know that we strongly support your proposed legislation SB 210 (Leyva). This bill would require a school district that has drinking water sources that do not meet EPA drinking water standards for lead or any other contaminant to close access to those drinking water sources, to provide alternative drinking water sources, and to notify students, parents and guardians, teachers, and staff if the school district is required to provide those alternative drinking water sources. It would also prohibit drinking water that does not meet EPA drinking water standards for lead from being provided at a school facility.

Every child deserves plentiful, clean drinking water. Simply put, there is no way to maintain a healthful lifestyle without it. However, even in the United States, many families do not have access to clean drinking water—and families who are already vulnerable to race or class discrimination are those most likely to suffer for it. In 2011, an independent United Nations expert noted that 13% of Native American households do not have access to clean water and sanitation, compared to 0.6% of non-Native households—itself a staggering number for one of the world's wealthiest countries. The recent crisis in Flint, Michigan has highlighted this issue, which sadly is far more widespread than we would like to think.

SB 210 (Leyva) would take the necessary step of ensuring that all California schoolchildren have access to clean drinking water. Not only would this bill make sure that no child is consuming dangerous drinking water at school, but it would also mean that any child who does not have safe drinking water at home could depend on their school to provide them with this basic, essential resource.

Pediatricians across the state support SB 210 (Leyva). We thank you for your leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

Adam Braddock, MD

Adam Braddock, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
State Government Affairs Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Kris Calvin, CEO; AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne