



August 25, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1014 (Thurmond) Education finance: Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund: Learning Communities for School Success Program
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Governor Brown:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing 5,000 California pediatricians strongly supports AB 1014 (Thurmond). AB 1014 would establish the Learning Communities for School Success Program to implement the K-12 education portion of Proposition 47 for the purpose of helping public schools resolve attendance problems of pupils in elementary education. It includes teacher training, resources, phone outreach and other evidence-based interventions funded by Proposition 47.

The initiative requires that 25 percent of the Safe Neighborhoods School Fund be allocated to the California Department of Education (CDE) to administer a grant program to reduce truancy, high school dropout, and student victimization rates. This bill has the potential to improve student attendance while generating needed revenue for schools, and creating brighter, long term outcomes for California's youth.

According to the AAP Committee on School Health, "...new knowledge of early brain and child development has revealed that modifiable factors in a child's early experience can greatly affect that child's learning trajectory." (2008)

Resolving attendance problems in grades K-3, as targeted in AB 1014, would potentially improve those children's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Pediatricians, therefore, respectfully urge you to sign AB 1014 and 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: Stuart Cohen, AAP-CA Chair; Lydia Bourne, AAP-CA Legislative Advocate; AAP-CA Leadership