



April 7, 2015

Assemblymember Garcia
California State Capitol, Room 2013
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA Fax: 916-319-2158

RE: AB 1117 (Cristina Garcia) Medi-Cal: Vaccination Rates
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California writes in support of your Assembly Bill 1117 (Cristina Garcia): Medi-Cal: Vaccination Rates. AB 1117 would bring additional resources to the health care system to help improve California's relatively low vaccination rates for 2-year-olds. Vaccination rates for kids are not as high as they need to be, posing a risk for all children. The risks of failing to vaccinate children have been demonstrated by the 11,000+ cases of whooping cough in California in 2014 and the more recent measles outbreak that began at Disneyland.

There are no official requirements for vaccination for children before they enter school. Yet due to their immature immune systems, younger children are often more susceptible to the potentially severe and even life-threatening consequences of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases.

Similar to successful programs in other states to improve quality (e.g., in New York, Louisiana, and Maine), AB 1117 would create and evaluate a five-year California Childhood Immunization Quality Improvement Fund (CCIQIF). The CCIQIF would allow California to access federal matching funds through a commitment of voluntary contributions from Medi-Cal managed care organizations. Monies would be used to support provider best practice strategies for ensuring children are fully immunized (one-third of fund), and Medi-Cal managed care plan reward payments for each fully-immunized 2-year-old child as measured by HEDIS, the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (two-thirds of fund, with a portion passed through to providers).

Pediatricians strongly support AB 1117 and thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of children across California.

Sincerely,

Kris E. Calvin |

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California