



August 15, 2018

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1335 (Bonta) Sugar-sweetened beverages: safety warnings
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Portantino,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports proposed legislation AB 1335 (Bonta), the Sugar-Sweetened Beverages Safety Warning Act to require that health warning labels be placed on beverages sold in California that contain added sweeteners and at least 75 calories per 12 ounces.

Multiple studies have demonstrated that consumption of sugary soft drinks is associated with marked increases in occurrence of obesity, type 2 diabetes, tooth decay, and other negative health outcomes. It is for this reason that California legislators banned the sale of soda on school campuses. However, school site soda consumption is only one source of sugar-sweetened beverages. As noted in AAP policy, “As much as 40% of the daily energy consumed by 2 to 18-year-olds is in the form of ‘empty calories’ (energy-dense, nutrient-poor), most of it consumed away from school”—and much of it in the form of sugar-sweetened beverages, of which 65% of California youth between the ages of 12 and 17 consume at least one per day.

In New York, six years after a mass media campaign raising awareness on the added sugars in sugary drinks, there was a 27% decrease in the consumption of sugary beverages by adolescents and a 35% decrease in adults.

AB 1335 (Bonta) would help assure that parents and children are properly informed about the risks of consuming sugar-sweetened beverages, including those that are designed to appear to be healthy choices (including some sports drinks, sweetened fruit beverages, and flavored water drinks). This would help to reduce childhood obesity, type 2 diabetes, and tooth decay, and would contribute to Californians’ long-term health.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly support proposed legislation AB 1335 (Bonta) and urge you to vote AYE. We thank you for your leadership on behalf of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

Kris E. Calvin |

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

cc: Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee; The Honorable Assemblymember Rob Bonta, Author; AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne; AAPCA Policy Analysts Dr. Megana Roopreddy and Dr. Alyssa B Velasco