



April 2, 2018

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 1744 (McCarty): CalWORKs: aid amounts: education support payments
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair O'Donnell:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports proposed legislation AB 1744 (McCarty), which would allow cannabis tax revenue to be used to fund After School Education and Safety Programs in order to prevent and reduce substance abuse and improve school retention.

The majority of people with substance abuse problems begin abusing substances before they turn 18, and half of graduating high school seniors have tried an illegal drug at least once. According to the Monitoring the Future study, nearly 6% of 8th graders report illegal drug use in the past year—exclusive of marijuana, the most commonly abused drug. It is thus essential that substance abuse education begins early, so that children are knowledgeable about the subject before they are exposed to substance abuse through their peers.

AB 1744 (McCarty) would help fund after-school substance abuse education programs by clarifying that tax money from the sale of legalized cannabis products to adults may be used to do so. This would help steer children away from substance abuse.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state strongly support proposed legislation AB 1744 (McCarty) and respectfully urge an AYE vote. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

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

cc: Honorable Kevin McCarty, author
Members of the Assembly Education Committee
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne