



April 1, 2018

Honorable Mark Stone
State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2066 (Stone): Personal income taxes: credit: earned income: eligible individual
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assemblymember Stone:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports your proposed legislation AB 2066 (Stone), which extends eligibility for the existing California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) to groups not currently covered by the CalEITC, including low-income working youth under age 25, low-income working immigrant families, and low-income working seniors over 65.

The combined federal and California Earned Income Tax Credit is among the most effective poverty reduction tool currently in use in California, estimated to have reduced the state poverty rate by more than two percentage points. However, some of the state's most vulnerable populations are excluded from both the federal and California EITC. Notably, working youth below the age of 25—the most poverty-prone age group amongst California adults—are not eligible for the EITC, and neither are those without social security numbers valid for work, including those who lose their immigration relief through the discontinuation or modification of programs such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). As poverty has repeatedly been shown to have a strongly negative impact on children and youth's health and well-being, both immediately and in the long term, this is extremely concerning to pediatricians who must confront the consequences of poverty in their daily practices.

AB 2066 (Stone) would reduce poverty in California and thus improve children and youth's health and well-being by extending CalEITC eligibility to these vulnerable groups, thus expanding one of our most effective programs against poverty.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state strongly support your proposed legislation AB 2066 (Stone). Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

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

cc: AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne