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April 5, 2018

Honorable Mark Stone  
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 104  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2090 (Gonzalez Fletcher): Guardianships: special immigrant juvenile status.  
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Stone:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports proposed legislation AB 2090 (Gonzalez Fletcher), which would clarify that the parent of an unmarried person between 18 and 21 years of age is among the people qualified to file a petition for guardianship on the youth's behalf.

The Immigration and Nationality Act, a federal law, establishes that undocumented immigrants who are below the age of 21, are unmarried and have been declared dependents on a juvenile court due to abuse, neglect or abandonment are eligible to petition for an adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident. Those who qualify and are 18, 19, or 20 years old may file a petition for guardianship so as to complete the proceedings to attain special immigrant juvenile status. Others, "a relative, or any other person" according to current law, may also file this petition on behalf of the proposed ward.

AB 2090 (Gonzalez Fletcher) would clarify the language so that it would read "a parent, a relative, or any other person" so that there would be no confusion about who could submit the application on behalf of the proposed word, thus making sure that qualifying undocumented youth have as many options as possible as they navigate their way through this legal process.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state strongly support proposed legislation AB 2090 (Gonzalez Fletcher). 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: Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, author  
Members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee  
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne