



June 6, 2017

The Honorable Ash Kalra
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0027
Fax: (916) 319-2127

RE: AB 21 (Kalra): Public postsecondary education: Access to Higher Education for Every Student.
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Kalra:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports your proposed legislation AB 21 (Kalra). This bill would establish various policies and actions to be implemented by public institutions of higher education in California to safeguard against immigration enforcement activities, in order to mitigate the effects of potential changes to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The national American Academy of Pediatrics supports the DACA program, writing, “All children should be able to pursue a high-quality education, remain united with their families, and access health care services. We can and must do better for immigrant children and youth, who did not choose where they or their parents were born or how they came to this country, and for their parents, who are building their lives here, pay taxes, and help grow our economy.” With the possibility of changes to DACA or its termination made very real in recent months, it is incumbent upon us to do what we can to make sure that all children and youth are safe from deportation in their educational environments.

AB 21 (Kalra) would mitigate the potentially disastrous effects of changes to federal immigration policy by requiring that California State University trustees and governing boards of community college districts, and requesting that the University of California Board of Regents, refrain from releasing confidential student information; advise all students and require each member of the faculty and staff to immediately notify the campus chancellor or president if he or she is advised that public or law enforcement entities are expected to enter, will enter, or have entered the campus to execute a federal immigration order; assign a staff person, or multiple staff persons as necessary, to serve as a point of contact for any student, faculty, or staff person who may or could be subject to an immigration order or inquiry on campus; and make other changes to make sure that all California students are able to seek an education, regardless of their citizenship status.

Pediatricians strongly support AB 21 (Kalra). We thank you for your public service and for your leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends towards the upper right.

Zoey Goore, M.D., M.P.H., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
President, California Chapter 1 of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Executive Board, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Kris Calvin, CEO; AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne