



February 28, 2017

The Honorable Miguel Santiago
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0053
Fax: (916) 319-2153

RE: AB 210 (Santiago): Homeless multidisciplinary personnel teams
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Santiago:

I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, to let you know that we strongly support your proposed legislation AB 210 (Santiago). This bill would authorize counties to establish a homeless adult, child, and family multidisciplinary personnel team, to link homeless Californians to housing and supportive services.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated in 2016 that nearly 120,000 homeless people lived in California in 2016, including over 20,000 members of families with children and over 11,000 unaccompanied youth—this last number representing a third of the nation’s total number of homeless unaccompanied youth, of whom over 800 were estimated to be below the age of 18. It goes without saying that homelessness is dangerous and highly stressful, and more so for families and children, whose health and well-being are often severely affected even after the period of homelessness concludes. It is incumbent on us to do all we can to end homelessness in California, especially for the youngest and most vulnerable among us.

AB 210 (Santiago) would stand to reduce homelessness in California by forming a multidisciplinary personnel team to link homeless individuals with the resources they need to escape homelessness. This could help Californians across the state who would benefit immensely from a life off the streets—including thousands of children and youth who are in urgent need of a roof to sleep under.

Pediatricians across the state support AB 210 (Santiago). We thank you 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, appearing to read "Nancy Graff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" written in a smaller, more regular hand, and the last name "Graff" written in a larger, more stylized cursive script.

Nancy Graff, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
State Government Affairs Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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