



March 14, 2018

The Honorable Blanca E. Rubio
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2119 (Gloria) Foster care: gender affirming health care and behavioral health services.
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Rubio,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports AB 2119 (Gloria), which would establish that youth in foster care have the right to have access to gender affirming health care and gender affirming behavioral health care.

“Gender affirming health care” is defined as health care that respects the gender identity of the patient, as experienced and defined by the patient. Transgender and gender nonconforming (TGNC) youth are significantly overrepresented in California’s foster care system. These youth share many of the experiences and characteristics of their peers in the foster care system, yet they also confront unique challenges: pervasive discrimination, a lack of clear policies for navigating TGNC health care needs and a shortage of knowledgeable gender affirming providers. These issues create barriers to accessing medically necessary care, subjecting TGNC foster children and non-minor dependents to significant risk of harm.

AB 2119 (Gloria) ensures youth in foster care the right to access gender affirming health care and gender affirming behavioral health services by obligating child welfare agencies to grant foster youth access to clinicians who provide gender-affirming treatment consistent with established standards of care.

Pediatricians across the state urge you to vote AYE on AB 2119 (Gloria). 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: Assembly Human Services Committee Members
Office of Honorable Todd Gloria, California State Assembly (Author)
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne