



May 30, 2018

The Honorable Benjamin Allen
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2121 (Caballero): Pupil Instruction: Coursework and Graduation Requirements: currently and formerly migratory children and newly arrived immigrant pupils
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Chair Allen:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians statewide, supports proposed legislation AB 2121 (Caballero) to exempt migrant students from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board of a school district that are over and above statewide coursework requirements.

California Pediatricians are committed to promoting and ensuring the health and general well-being of all infants, children, youth and young adults in California. Poverty is an extremely important social determinant of health. without a high school diploma a young person is at greatly increased risk of not being able to provide for their basic financial needs.

California is home to the largest population of migrant students in the nation. Migrant students often must change schools as their families seek employment. In one study, 27% of migrant students were found to have changed school districts during the 2016-17 school year. These frequent moves make it difficult to meet local graduation requirements.

Pupils in foster care, homeless children, former juvenile court school pupils, and pupils who are children of a military family face similar obstacles. These students are already exempt from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board of a school district that are over and above statewide coursework requirements. AB 2121 (Caballero) would extend those exemptions to current and former migrant children by adding migrant children to the Education Code to support them in their transitions between schools.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly support AB 2121 (Caballero) and urge you to vote AYE. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

Kris E. Calvin

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

cc: Honorable Anna Caballero, Author
Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Education
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne