



April 2, 2018

The Honorable Jose Medina
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2202 (Gray): University of California: school of medicine
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Medina:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports proposed legislation AB 2202 (Gray), which would appropriate funds for the creation, construction and establishment of the University of California, Merced School of Medicine.

The Central Valley has long been underserved due to a shortage of doctors in the area. Merced County in particular averages 81 patient care doctors per 100,000 people, compared to the California average of 174 per 100,000. This must be rectified to ensure that Valley children and families receive adequate care. Establishing an additional medical school in the Central Valley would not only bring medical students to the area, and encourage them to develop connections and stay long-term, but could also foment local students' interest in medicine, inspiring them to study medicine and continue on to practice it in their communities.

AB 2202 (Gray) would appropriate funds for the purpose of creating such a school, thus producing more doctors to serve the Central Valley and improving children's access to health care over the long term.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state strongly support proposed legislation AB 2202 (Gray) and respectfully urge an AYE vote. 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 Adam Gray, author
Members of the Assembly Higher Education Committee
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne