



March 6, 2017

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Fax: (916) 319-2113

RE: AB 24 (Eggman): State Seal of Civic Engagement
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Eggman:

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 24 (Eggman). AB 24 would encourage California teens to become involved in their communities by sponsoring the creation of a State Seal of Civic Engagement, to be awarded upon high school graduation to those students who demonstrate a high degree of civic knowledge and involvement.

Teens are at an age where the desire for independence is felt more strongly than ever, while many of the strictures of childhood remain. They brim with energy and yet are often not afforded the opportunities to expend that energy in ways they find meaningful. This is among the many reasons why both civic education and engagement are so important. Civic engagement, such as volunteering, has been shown by an increasing number of studies to improve the emotional and even physical health of the volunteer: the sense of purpose and social engagement it creates both diminish depressive tendencies and encourage the volunteer to make healthier lifestyle choices. Civic education empowers students to effect change on a larger scale, by showing them the workings of government and lending them the knowledge they need to become true citizens.

AB 24 (Eggman) would encourage both volunteering and knowledge of government through the creation of the State Seal of Civic Engagement, which would publicly recognize those students who excel in these arenas. This would have a beneficial effect on the well-being of adolescents throughout California.

Pediatricians across the state support AB 24 (Eggman). 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, consisting of a series of 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
Executive Board Member, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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