



September 25, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of the State of California
California State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2448 (Gipson) Juveniles: rights: computing technology
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Governor Brown,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, respectfully requests your signature on proposed legislation AB 2448 to require that children in foster care and minors detained or committed to juvenile facilities be provided with access to computer technology and the internet for educational purposes and to maintain relationships with family, as specified.

Technology affects every facet of life today and is crucial for learning and communication. Without reasonable access to computers and the Internet, youth in out-of-home placements cannot access online school assignments and materials, conduct online research or engage in normal day-to-day communications with family and friends. They risk falling behind academically and becoming isolated from their communities and supportive connections.

Existing law gives youth in foster care and juveniles in local detention facilities the right to education and to contact family members. It also specifies the right of dependents and wards in foster care to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities. AB 2448 would give these children access to educational and social activities through computing technology.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide respectfully urge your signature on AB 2448. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

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

cc: AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne