



June 4, 2018

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0056

**RE: AB 2453 (Garcia, E) Air pollution: schools
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports proposed legislation AB 2453 (Garcia, E), specifying that schools in communities with high-risk pollution sources may be eligible for grants as part of existing community emissions reduction programs to implement air quality mitigation efforts.

According to the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and the American Lung Association of California, children are at greater risk of health impacts from air pollution than adults. Research shows that children breathe more rapidly and spend significantly more time outdoors than adults, increasing exposure to pollutants. Further, since young immune systems and organs are still developing, children exposed to air pollution are more likely to develop respiratory symptoms or suffer from impaired development of their respiratory, nervous, endocrine, and immune systems. Children of color and low-income children are more likely to be attending a school with high exposure to pollution. There are currently no statewide programs designed to reduce exposure to air pollutants at existing school sites.

AB 2453 will improve air quality for children in schools with high-risk pollution sources by making them eligible for grants as part of existing community emission reduction programs to implement air quality mitigation efforts.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly support your proposed legislation AB 2453. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

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

cc: AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne