



March 26, 2018

The Honorable Jose Medina
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ? AB 2477 (Rubio) Student support services: Dream Resource Liaisons
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Medina,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports AB 2477 (Rubio), which would require California public high schools, as well as California State Universities (CSUs) and California Community Colleges (CCCs) to have a designated “Dreamer Resource Liaison” staffer on campus to provide undocumented and California Dream Act (SB 540) students with the support and resources needed to navigate the education system.

Undocumented students face unique barriers in education, including uncertainty regarding policies that affect them at both the state and federal levels. It is important that California public colleges and universities ensure that these students are provided with all available resources to be successful in their education.

A recent study indicates that many of these students have concerns and frustrations regarding the lack of knowledge their college faculty, staff, and administrators have about relevant policies and services. Further, many report having encountered unfair treatment due to their legal status from fellow students, financial aid officials, and administrators. For the majority of these students, a positive campus climate towards undocumented students plays a crucial role in their educational success (The UndocuScholars Project).

AB 2477 (Rubio) would create a Dreamer Resource Liaison staffer on post-secondary institution campuses in California in order to establish a positive campus climate for DACA and SB 540 students and aid in their success.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state urge you to vote AYE on AB 2477 (Rubio). Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Melissa J. Ruiz, M.D., M.P.H., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Early Career Physician Representative, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Assembly Higher Education Committee Members
Office of Honorable Blanca E. Rubio, California State Assembly (Author)
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne

The UndocuScholars Project: <http://www.undocuscholars.org/undocuscholars-report.html>