



April 2, 2018

The Honorable Blanca Rubio, Chair
Assembly Human Services Committee
1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2626 (Mullin): Child care services
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Rubio:

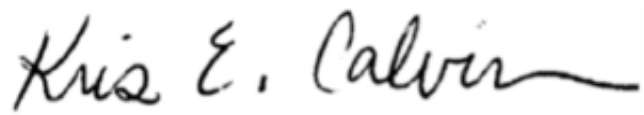
The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports proposed legislation AB 2626 (Mullin), which would make various changes to the Child Care and Development Services Act, including making families eligible for child care services for a minimum of 12 months if they are seeking employment, homeless or incapacitated, deleting the requirement that at least half of kids attending state preschools be 4 years old.

Childcare is a critical issue for many California families. When parents must work during the day, it is essential that affordable and high-quality childcare be made available to them so that they are not forced to rely on substandard child care options that could neglect opportunities for early childhood learning or, worse, endanger their child's health and safety. However, a recent study has found that only one in seven California children who qualify for subsidized child care received such services in 2015. While part of the problem is insufficient or unstable funding on the federal level, many families may not access these services because of difficult enrollment requirements or cumbersome regulations. For instance, families may easily lose certification if they do not keep up with paperwork during housing or employment crises.

AB 2626 (Mullin) would ease certain requirements regarding access to California subsidized child care, including allowing families seeking employment, homeless or incapacitated to be certified for a minimum 12-month period rather than 6 months, and eliminating the requirement that at least half of all students at subsidized child care centers be four years old, allowing for greater flexibility in enrollment.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state strongly support proposed legislation AB 2626 (Mullin) 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin" with a long, sweeping underline.

Kris Calvin

Chief Executive Officer, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Honorable Kevin Mullin, author
Members of the Assembly Human Services Committee
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne