



April 16, 2018

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2668 (Travis Allen) Immunizations: Pupils not immunized
AAP-CA Position: Oppose

Dear Chair Wood:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, respectfully opposes Assembly Bill 2668 (Travis Allen). This bill would exempt private schools from school immunization requirements and provide financial support for families to transition to private schools, putting thousands of California children at risk from vaccine preventable diseases.

Since the 2015 enactment of SB 277 (Chapter 35, Statutes of 2015), which requires that children be fully immunized from kindergarten through 7th grade to attend both public and private schools and day care, with limited exceptions, California childhood vaccine rates have markedly increased. The percentage of California's kindergarteners as of fall 2016 with all required vaccines rose from 92.8% to 95.5%, with an increase in the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine rising from 94.5% to 97.3%. SB 2668 threatens to undo this progress in the protection of school-aged children and our communities from vaccine-preventable illness.

Further, AB 2086 could actively incentivize parents to refuse vaccination in order to be obtain the grant money to pay for their children to attend a private school, charter school, or daycare.

Vaccine requirements for daycare and school protect not only the individual health of that child, but also the health of their family and the public health in the community, where vaccine-preventable illnesses continue to present a significant danger, especially to the health and lives of children too young to get certain vaccines and children with immunocompromised states.

Pediatricians across the state strongly oppose SB 2668. 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 that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

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

CC: AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne