



April 5, 2018

Honorable Autumn Burke
Chair, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
1020 N Street, Room 167A
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2944 (Jones-Sawyer): Personal income taxes: voluntary contributions: Schools Not Prisons Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Burke:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports proposed legislation AB 2944 (Jones-Sawyer), which would create the Schools Not Prisons California Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.

The “school-to-prison pipeline,” or process by which students are pushed out of schools and into the prison system, is a reality for far too many California youth. Research shows that youth who are expelled or suspended from their school sites are 10 times more likely to drop out of high school; moreover, data suggest that these same youth are more likely to become involved with the juvenile justice system. Contact with the juvenile justice system is itself associated with higher risks of future criminal activity and incarceration. This is not only costly to society, but disastrous for these young people who often lived through traumatic childhoods and simply did not receive the resources they needed to thrive.

AB 2944 (Jones-Sawyer) would help divert youth from the prison system over the long term by giving taxpayers the option of contributing to the Schools Not Prisons California Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund, in order to fund nonprofits that seek to break the school-to-prison pipeline through academic and career readiness programs.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state strongly support proposed legislation AB 2944 (Jones-Sawyer). 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".

Kris Calvin

Chief Executive Officer, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer, author
Members of the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne