



May 30, 2018

The Honorable Benjamin Allen
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Education
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2949 (Gloria): Pupil Residency: Pupils of Military Families
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Allen:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports proposed legislation AB 2949 (Gloria) to allow a pupil who is a child of a military family to continue attending his or her school of origin regardless of a change of residence or the end of the parent's military service.

Student mobility, especially multiple moves, can cause lower school engagement, poorer grades, and a higher risk of dropping out of high school. Students generally lose about three months of reading and math learning each time they switch schools. Children from military families move an average of six to nine times during a school career. California is home to the largest number of active duty military in the country. As of August 2017, there were 56,127 children attending K-12 schools in California, who were affiliated with 30 different military commands throughout the state.

AB 2949 (Gloria) would minimize additional school disruptions for military students by giving military families the option of completing the current academic year at their school of original enrollment. Voluntary transfers, which are more likely to happen during the summer, cause less academic disruption and may be associated with academic improvement. An enrollment policy that allows military students to continue attending the school of origin could reduce the impact of frequent moves on their academic performance.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly support proposed legislation AB 2949 (Gloria) and 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 cursive script that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

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

cc: Honorable Todd Gloria, author
Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Education
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne