



August 29, 2018

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
California State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Governor Brown,

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 a 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 respectfully request you to sign AB 2949 (Gloria) into law. 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 "Marsha A. Spitzer".

Executive Board Member, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Honorable Todd Gloria (Author); AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne