



September 26, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE:? AB 2960 (Thurmond) Child Care and Development Services: Online Portal
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Governor Brown,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, respectfully requests your signature on AB 2960 (Thurmond) requiring the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop and post an online portal for the state's comprehensive child care and development services.


High-quality early education and childcare improves brain development for children, but on average, a licensed child care center in California costs over \$16,000 for a year of full-time care. Lack of access to necessary services impairs growth and development. Many families are stretched so financially thin that they are not able to find child care, behavioral and developmental services, enrichment programs, or food and nourishment services for their children. Currently, only 14% of eligible low-income infants and toddlers are enrolled in a publically-funded child care program.

The State of California offers many child care and development services through multiple programs administered by different departments and agencies and with varied eligibility requirements. Presently, there is no single data system that encompasses all these child care and development programs. Parents have a difficult time finding what resources might be available to them and how to access those resources.

AB 2960 (Thurmond) would create a single online portal that would extend the reach of child care and development services as a system, while preserving the distinct missions of each program. A publicly available online portal hosted and maintained by the Superintendent of Public Instruction that includes, among program and eligibility information, the opportunity to connect with resource and referral agencies and providers, the ability to apply through a single, uniform application and to enroll on a statewide waiting list for subsidized child care programs would help to ensure that California's programs are reaching as many children as possible.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide support proposed legislation AB 2960 (Thurmond) and respectfully urge your signature. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kris E. Calvin in black ink.

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

cc: Members of the Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Tony Thurmond, Author
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne; Lauren Lajos, MD, AAP Senior Policy Analyst