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June 4, 2018

Senator Scott D. Wiener  
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 521  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 3007 (Garcia): Children of Incarcerated Parents: Support Services.**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Chair Wiener:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports proposed legislation AB 3007 (Garcia), which would authorize the County of Riverside to establish a program providing comprehensive social services to children whose parents are currently or were formerly incarcerated.

The stress of being separated from a parent is highly significant in the life of a child. When the separation occurs because the parent is incarcerated, guilt, anxiety, shame, and fear further complicate the situation with short and long-term impacts on the health of these children. Children of incarcerated parents (CIP) are more likely to exhibit behavioral problems, have depressive symptoms, and have health challenges as young adults. Studies have found these children are more likely to commit crimes and become involved in the justice system. Researchers are just beginning to investigate intergenerational effects of adverse childhood experiences, but it's possible that the trauma of having an incarcerated parent might echo through an entire family tree.

AB 3007 (Garcia) seeks to break that cycle by providing a combination of physical, emotional, mental and social support services in an after-school program in the County of Riverside. This program would be part of the county's effort to curb intergenerational transfer of criminal behavior by providing support and services to the youth population whose parents are incarcerated.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly support proposed legislation AB 3007 (Garcia) and urges 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: Members of the Senate Human Services Committee

Honorable Eduardo Garcia, author

AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne