



June 11, 2018

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

RE:? AB 3192 (O'Donnell) LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option: Audit Guide
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Allen,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports AB 3192 (O'Donnell) to require the Department of Health Care Services to prepare and disseminate audit guidance for the Medi-Cal LEA Billing Option Program.

The LEA (Local Education Agency) Medi-Cal Billing Option reimburses the federal share of health services such as audiology, occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, and more offered to Medi-Cal eligible students by qualified health service practitioners employed by the education agency or under contract with the education agency. Previously, the program only reimbursed services offered to special education students. It has been expanded to offer these services to all Medi-Cal eligible students.

Without these services, many conditions that could have devastating effects on student success might go untreated. The program is an important step in ensuring that all California students are safe and ready to learn.

The Medi-Cal LEA Billing Option program is very complex and audits have not been consistently applied, costing local education agencies millions of dollars and making some schools reluctant to be part of the program. AB 3192 (O'Donnell) would create a comprehensive and clear set of rules and guidelines to ensure consistent and appropriate use of the program so that California students have access to the programs and services to which they are entitled.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide support proposed legislation AB 3192 (O'Donnell) and urge you to vote AYE. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

Kris E. Calvin

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

cc: Senate Education Committee Members
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, author
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne