



September 29, 2015

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 35 (Chiu)
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing nearly 5,000 primary care and subspecialty pediatricians statewide supports AB 35 (Chiu). This bill would increase the aggregate housing credit dollar amount that may be allocated among low-income housing projects, as specified. The bill would modify the definition of applicable percentage relating to qualified low-income buildings that meet specified criteria.

The preservation and rehabilitation of existing affordable housing stock created through public investment is a critical step toward addressing the affordable housing crisis in our state. With homelessness as a growing risk for low-income families, the well being of California's children is at stake. Homeless or impoverished children are predisposed to poor health outcomes due to a lack of consistent access to food, water, and shelter.

Homeless children are at higher risk of health issues, food insecurity, emotional trauma, and reduced academic performance. According to AAP Policy Statement on Providing Care for Children and Adolescents Facing Homelessness and Housing Insecurity (2013), "Homelessness and housing insecurity negatively impact child health and development in many ways. Homeless children have shown higher rates of acute and chronic health problems than low-income children with homes... Children without a stable home are more likely to skip meals, worry about the availability of food, and consume foods with low nutritional quality and high fat content. As a result, they suffer from high rates of malnutrition, stunting, and obesity... Emotional distress, developmental delays, and decreased academic achievement are all more common in this population... In a study in elementary school students, homeless children scored lower on math and reading achievement tests than low-income students living in homes."

Therefore, AAP-CA respectfully urges you to sign AB 35 (Chiu). We thank you for your leadership on behalf of children and families across California.

Sincerely,

Kris E. Calvin |

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California