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February 8, 2016

Assembly Member Calderon  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2148  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 319-2163

**RE: AB 598 (Calderon): Childcare: Family Childcare Home Education Networks**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Calderon:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing the 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of all four CA AAP chapters statewide, strongly supports your proposed legislation AB 598. This bill would establish additional, standardized requirements for California “family child care home education networks” in support of quality care and education for California’s youngest children, including providing assessment tools that are appropriate to family child care home settings when conducting mandated assessments of each FCCHEN provider, clarifying steps to be taken when ensuring that a developmental profile for each child is completed, and ensuring that parent conferences are offered.

FCCHENs are currently charged with offering support to family child care home providers through access to training and services aimed at providing quality care and education for children. This bill would codify current practice to provide for greater statewide consistency of services and increased access to high-quality childcare options for families, specifically those with infants and toddlers.

Families with lower incomes may have a greater need for home-based childcare, both licensed and license-exempt, compared to higher-earning families. This can be due, in part, to the types of care that are available during the nontraditional work hours encountered more often in some lower-paying jobs. The following is from The American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement Quality Early Education and Child Care From Birth to Kindergarten: “Research of high-quality, intensive early childhood education programs for low-income children confirm lasting positive effects such as greater school success, higher graduation rates, lower juvenile crime, decreased need for special education services later, and lower adolescent pregnancy rates. Children who attend high-quality early childhood programs demonstrate better math and language skills, better cognition and social skills, better interpersonal relationships, and better behavioral self-regulation than do children in lower-quality care. Inferior-quality care, at home or outside the home, can have harmful effects on language, social development, and school performance that are more difficult to ameliorate, especially for children in schools with fewer resources. The positive effects from high-quality programs and the negative effects from poor-quality programs are magnified for children from disadvantaged situations or with special

needs, and yet these children are least likely to have access to quality early education and childcare.

California pediatricians support your bill AB 598 to increase in standardized support for quality care in family day care homes in California.

Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacques Corriveau, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jacques Corriveau, MD  
State Government Affairs Chair  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California