



February 28, 2017

The Honorable Miguel Santiago
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0053
Fax: (916) 319-2153

RE: AB 60 (Santiago): Subsidized child care and development services: eligibility periods
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Santiago:

I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, to let you know that we strongly support your proposed legislation AB 60 (Santiago). This bill would require that a family, upon establishing initial eligibility or ongoing eligibility for services under the Child Care and Development Services Act, be considered to meet all eligibility requirements for those services for not less than 12 months, receive those services for not less than 12 months before having its eligibility redetermined, and not be required to report changes to income or other changes for at least 12 months.

Many California families benefit greatly from subsidized child care services that enable parents to work or pursue an education knowing that their children are being cared for. However, qualifying and maintaining eligibility for these programs can represent an outsized burden on these very busy families. When recertification is required every few months or more, it is all too easy for working families to miss a crucial deadline and lose eligibility. This can be catastrophic for families that depend on child care services to provide for their families.

AB 60 (Santiago) would ease the burden on California families by guaranteeing that once eligibility is granted for subsidized child care services, they would not have to re-certify for at least one year. This would be a relief for working parents across the state, and would keep kids from being deprived of adequate child care.

Pediatricians across the state support AB 60 (Santiago). We thank you for your leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Santiago".

Susan Wu, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
State Government Affairs Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Kris Calvin, CEO; AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne