



June 28, 2018

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Chair Portantino,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports Assembly Bill 60 (Santiago). By streamlining the process between the various child care stages this cost-effective bill would guarantee that families receiving CalWORKs child care are not wrongfully discontinued from child care.

Continuity of care creates the stable conditions for children to thrive. Families can be thrown into crisis when they lose their child care, parents forced to forego work, limit their work hours, or struggle to pay for child care they cannot afford, leaving them unable to pay for basic necessities like food and rent. This level of stress is toxic on children and has lasting negative effects. Parents have asked for AB 60's technological solution to ensure their child care is not interrupted during the CalWORKs child care transfer process.

The provisions of AB 60 as introduced last year were enacted through the Budget Act of 2017, guaranteeing at least 12 months of continuous affordable child care for eligible families, providing stability for families and eliminated burdensome reporting that caused eligible families to lose their care. But a significant problem has been identified that remains for families as they transition through the CalWORKs child care stages. These working families should continue to receive CalWORKs child care, but face unnecessary disruptions in the care they need to keep working and keep their children safe. AB 60, as now updated, builds on the initial effort to ensure that families experience no break in services. **AB 60 would now help child care contractors fulfill their duty to seamlessly transfer families through the CalWORKs child care stages by requiring counties to share the necessary data via a limited "read-only" access to the county level Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) database.**

Parents should be able to support their families, achieve economic security, and improve their prospects in the job market without having to sacrifice their child's well-being. AB 60 presents an extraordinary opportunity to remove unjust barriers that cause eligible families to lose their child care.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide support proposed legislation AB 60 (Santiago) and urge an AYE vote. 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 "Susan Wu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a distinct "W".

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

cc: Senate Appropriations Committee Members
The Honorable Miguel Santiago, Author
Kris Calvin, CEO; AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne