



March 29, 2017

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
State Capitol, Room 2196
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0070
Fax: (916) 319-2170

RE: AB 699 (O'Donnell): Educational equity: immigration status
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

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 699 (O'Donnell). This legislation would prohibit ICE officers from entering public schools without prior approval from a principal or district superintendent, prevent school officials from collecting information regarding the immigration status of a student or their family members, require that counseling be provided to students affected by immigration enforcement, and encourage schools to call Child Protective Services to arrange for a student's care only as a last resort, as CPS is required to verify a child's citizenship and immigration status.

It is our strongly held belief that all children should be afforded the right to attend school without fearing for their safety. Parents should be able to attend school events and parent-teacher conferences, pick up and drop off their children at school, and volunteer in their children's classrooms without concern that their families will be torn apart as a result. Subjecting California families to programs and policies that threaten these central functions of parenting could pose innumerable, grave consequences to the social, psychological, and physical well-being of children.

AB 699 (O'Donnell) would help to assure that California children would not need to fear their own deportation or their family members' simply because they attended school. This would in turn allow schools to remain what they should be: places of learning where all children can feel safe.

Pediatricians across the state support AB 699 (O'Donnell). 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 be "MD".

Yasuko Fukuda, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Vice Chair, District IX of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Executive Board, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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