



March 25, 2015

Assemblymember Campos
California State Capitol, Room 4016
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 80 (Campos): Interagency Task Force on the Status of Boys and Men of Color
AAP-CA POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Campos,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California, representing the 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of all four California AAP regional chapters statewide (Ch 1 – Northern California, Ch 2 – Greater Los Angeles, Ch 3 – San Diego, and Ch 4 – Orange County), strongly supports your proposed legislation AB 80 (Campos). This bill would create the Interagency Task Force on the Status of Boys and Men of Color, a multiagency advisory body that would serve as a support mechanism for department agency and systems leaders by taking coordinated action in meeting the myriad of challenges facing boys and men of color in California, and assisting the respective departments and agencies in more successfully improving life outcomes for this population.

On the federal level, President Barack Obama has started to address this issue through his “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative, which he announced early last year. This initiative seeks to coordinate the efforts of community based organizations and government agencies so that they can be most efficient in closing systemic gaps and in creating new opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

In California, social justice organizations, foundations, and community leaders have been focused on promoting these goals through policy change for well over a decade. Most notable was the formation of the Assembly Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color in 2011. Despite these efforts, there is still little coordinated action between the numerous state agencies and departments that affect the future of our young men.

AB 80 would establish a twenty-one member Interagency Taskforce on the Status of Boys and Men of Color to assist state agencies and system leaders to structure a coordinated response to meet the challenges facing our diverse population.

Pediatricians strongly support AB 80 and thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of children across California.

Sincerely,

Kris E. Calvin |

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California