



March 28, 2017

The Honorable Blanca E. Rubio
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0048
Fax: (916) 319-2148

RE: AB 885 (Rubio): Pupil health: drinking water: lead
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rubio:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports your proposed legislation AB 885 (Rubio). This bill would require public early education and K-12 schools to install and maintain certified filters on taps used for drinking or cooking, unless they can prove that its water delivery system is free of lead pipes and lead-bearing parts. The bill would also require schools to develop and adopt a plan of action for replacing any lead-bearing parts in their water delivery system by July 1, 2018 and would require community water systems to periodically test drinking water outlets at schools for lead.

Every child deserves plentiful, clean drinking water. Simply put, there is no way to maintain a healthful lifestyle without it. However, even in the United States, many families do not have access to clean drinking water, and children may even be exposed to lead at their school sites without knowing it. As noted in the AAP Policy Statement, "Prevention of Childhood Lead Toxicity," "Drinking fountains in older schools can be an important source of lead exposure. Unfortunately, there are no regulations for evaluating lead contamination of school drinking fountains in most states." Currently, California numbers among those states lacking these regulations.

AB 885 (Rubio) would take the necessary step of ensuring that all California schoolchildren have access to clean drinking water. Not only would this bill make sure that no child is consuming dangerous drinking water at school, but it would also mean that any child who does not have safe drinking water at home could depend on their school to provide them with this basic, essential resource.

Pediatricians strongly support AB 885 (Rubio). We thank you for your public service and for your leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

Lauren Gambill

Lauren Gambill, 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