



April 12, 2017

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4919

RE: SB 169 (Jackson): Education: sex equity
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson:

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 SB 169 (Jackson). This bill would codify federal Title IX regulations into state law by requiring that schools receiving public funds adopt grievance procedures for prompt and equitable resolution of student sexual harassment complaints at the school and designate at least one employee of the school to act as a sex equity coordinator, and would also include sexual violence in the definition of sexual harassment.

No one should have to fear discrimination or assault of any sort, anywhere. It is especially important that our educational environments, where students lay the groundwork for the rest of their lives, remain safe for everyone. However, sex discrimination and sexual assault are still problems of epidemic proportions both in our society and in our educational institutions. A 2007 study suggests that nearly 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted during their time in college, as well as nearly 1 in 20 men, with gay and bisexual men experiencing sexual assault rates ten times higher than heterosexual men. Many studies indicate that transgender youth may experience even higher rates of sexual assault. Given this sad reality, it is essential that we take strong action.

SB 169 (Jackson) would help make sure our children and youth are kept safe at school by requiring that educational institutions adopt and publish procedures for the resolution of students' sexual harassment complaints. This would represent one important step towards making our schools welcoming environments where all students can learn.

Pediatricians across the state support SB 169 (Jackson). We thank you for your leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

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