



March 7, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4933

SB 257 (Lara): School Admission for Children of Deported Parents
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lara:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 257 (Lara). This bill would require that the governing boards of school districts admit students who apply for classes or schools they are otherwise eligible for, and whose parents were California residents but have been deported, regardless of their current place of residence.

The deportation of a parent is a highly traumatic event in a child's life, and frequently has severe, long-lasting consequences for the child's emotional and physical health. Even the threat of a parent's deportation can be enough to induce a state of toxic stress in a child, with profound developmental implications. Furthermore, many children whose parents are deported suffer from added stress due to the events that often ensue. For example, many children may find it difficult to continue at their same school site as a result of losing residency in their district—or even in California, as many children will accompany their deported parents across borders. Not only can this be highly stressful for children, but their education may be negatively affected as well.

SB 257 (Lara) would help children of deported parents continue their education and preserve a modicum of stability in their lives by assuring that they will be able to continue attending California schools as before, no matter where they or their parents currently reside. This would be highly beneficial for thousands of children who have to live through the incredibly difficult circumstance of a parent's deportation.

California pediatricians strongly support SB 257 (Lara). We thank you for your public service and 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 "M. Lara", written in a cursive style.

Mona Patel, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
State Government Affairs Committee Representative
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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