



April 24, 2017

The Honorable Kevin de León
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4924

SB 613 (De León): Immigration status AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator de León:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California, representing the 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of all four California AAP regional chapters statewide, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 613 (de León). This bill would repeal provisions requiring that the Division of Juvenile Justice, the State Department of State Hospitals, and the State Department of Developmental Services cooperate with the United States Bureau of Immigration in arranging for the deportation of any undocumented immigrant committed to their institutions.

Deportation is an immensely traumatic experience for any person and their family members. Pediatricians regularly treat children who are scarred by the sudden deportation of a family member or friend, while many children are themselves deported despite the fact that the United States is the only country they have ever known or that has offered them safe harbor. As damaging as deportations are, they are only more so when they are carried out as a result of seeking healthcare or developmental services, or being interned in a juvenile justice institution. The former has a chilling effect on at-risk populations, encouraging them not to seek needed health care and support services for fear of the forced separation of their family; the latter affects children and youth who are already in a highly vulnerable position and require greater support, not further punishment.

SB 613 (de León) would advance the health and well-being of California children by assuring that no child or parent need fear detention or deportation as a result of seeking support services or healthcare in a state institution and that no California youth be deported by the authorities tasked with rehabilitating them into society.

Pediatricians across the state strongly support SB 613 (de León). We thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Tanilil".

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