



April 18, 2017

The Honorable Ed Hernandez
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4922

RE: SB 743 (Hernandez): Freedom of Choice in Family Planning
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hernandez:

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 743 (Hernandez). This bill would codify the federal free choice of provider provision into California statute, so as to protect reproductive health access for Medi-Cal enrollees.

Under current federal law, Medicaid recipients are entitled to obtain family planning services from any qualified, willing provider that accepts Medicaid patients. This ensures that those receiving Medicaid are able to receive these essential, highly personal services from the provider of their choice. However, it is uncertain whether this regulation will be preserved at the federal level.

SB 743 (Hernandez) would ensure that Medi-Cal patients preserve this important right, no matter what changes occur on the federal level, by codifying the regulation into California law. This would help guarantee that the millions of Californians who rely on Medi-Cal for healthcare will continue to receive important reproductive health care services at the provider where they feel most comfortable.

Pediatricians across the state support SB 743 (Hernandez). We thank you for your 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 read "Susan Wu".

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