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February 27, 2017

The Honorable Connie Leyva  
State Capitol, Room 4061  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4920

RE: SB 78 (Leyva): After-School Programs  
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Leyva:

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 78 (Leyva). SB 78 (Leyva) would expand annual funding to the California After School Education and Safety (ASES) program by nearly \$100 million, preserving the quality and integrity of the program in the face of rising expenses.

Quality after-school programs have been shown to have a dramatic and positive effect on children's well-being. According to the Harvard Family Research Project, "A decade of research and evaluation studies, as well as large-scale, rigorously conducted syntheses looking across many research and evaluation studies, confirms that children and youth who participate in after school programs can reap a host of positive benefits in a number of interrelated outcome areas—academic, social/emotional, prevention, and health and wellness" (Little, Wimer, & Weiss, 2008). California voters recognized this when they voted to create the ASES Program in 2002, but years of rising expenses—especially minimum wage increases—have threatened the financial viability of the program, and in turn the existence of the after-school programs that thousands of California children benefit from.

SB 78 (Leyva) would ensure the continued viability and quality of the ASES program by increasing funding to ASES, with provisions for future funding raises tied to minimum wage increases. This would preserve essential after-school program services for many more California children who rely on them to prepare for their futures.

Pediatricians across the state support SB 78 (Leyva). 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, consisting of a stylized, cursive name followed by the letters "MD".

Zoey Goore, M.D., M.P.H., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Executive Board Member, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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