



March 22, 2018

The Honorable Benjamin Allen
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 837 (Dodd) Transitional kindergarten: enrollment for 4-year-olds
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Allen,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports SB 837 (Dodd), which would require progressively younger 4-year-old pupils to be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program maintained by a school district or charter school, as provided, until, in the 2022–23 school year and each school year thereafter, the bill would require all 4-year-old pupils to be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program maintained by a school district or charter school.

The American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Early Childhood found that high-quality early education and child care for young children improves physical and cognitive outcomes and can result in enhanced school readiness. Longitudinal studies show that preschool improves long-term educational, economic, and health outcomes, particularly for low income children. Children who attend preschool are more likely to graduate from high school, use less special education, and earn higher wages.

SB 837 (Dodd) would give California's children the best chance at success by ensuring access to early care and education programs for all 4-year olds by the school year 2022-23.

Pediatricians across the state urge you to vote AYE on SB 837 (Dodd). 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 blue ink, appearing to read "SHS".

Suzanne Higgins Stewart, MD

Resident Representative Member, AAP-CA State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Senate Education Committee Members
Office of Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senate (Author)
AAP-CA CEO Kris Calvin; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne