



August 29, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 906 (Beall) Public postsecondary education: priority enrollment systems
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Governor Brown:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing 5,000 California pediatricians strongly supports SB 906 (Beall). This bill would extend the provisions of existing law that require California State University and each community college district to grant foster youth and former foster youth priority registration for enrollment.

Of the nearly 25,000 children who “age out” of foster care yearly, less than 3% will earn a college degree, 1 in 5 will become homeless after age 18 and only half will be employed at age 24. SB 906 would allow California’s former foster youth to continue to benefit from policy that gives them better access to California’s public colleges and universities. Additionally, according to *Reframing School Dropout as a Public Health Issue*, education is one of the strongest predictors of health. Higher levels of education are correlated with better health and longer lives.

The National AAP guidelines for foster care youth recommend a comprehensive plan as adolescents age out of foster care that includes the acquisition of skills crucial for future independence, such as completing their education, to aid in the healthy transition into adulthood. Foster children are at high risks of poor health, unstable lifestyles, and lower income. As pediatricians, we believe that with increased access to college, foster children have the potential to lead more successful healthy lives.

Pediatricians, therefore, respectfully urge you to sign SB 906 and 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 read "Jacques Corriveau".

Jacques Corriveau, M.D.

State Government Affairs Chair
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Stuart Cohen, AAP-CA Chair; Lydia Bourne, AAP-CA Legislative Advocate; AAP-CA Leadership