



December 30, 2018

Assemblymember Reyes
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via fax:

RE: AB 6 Office of Early Childhood Education
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Reyes:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 5,000 California pediatricians strongly supports your proposed bill AB 6 to establish within the Department of Education an Office of Early Childhood Education to ensure a holistic implementation of early childhood education programs and universal preschool, coordinating with the State Department of Social Services and the California Health and Human Services Agency to ensure that social and health services are provided to children in early childhood education programs and to identify families eligible for early childhood education financial assistance.

A statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Early Childhood Education (August 2017) asserts: “High-quality early education and child care for young children improves physical and cognitive outcomes for the children and can result in enhanced school readiness. Preschool education can be viewed as an investment (especially for at-risk children), and studies show a positive return on that investment.”

Coordination between agencies in health, human services and education, as well as universal access to preschool are critically important strategies to support the development, health and well-being of California’s youngest children, an investment that will accrue to them over their lifetimes and to the communities in which they live.

Kidsdata.org reports that the average cost of child care for a preschool age child in California is \$759 per month (\$9,106 annually). This presents an impossible burden for low-income families, if not assisted in some way. Pediatrician members of AAP statewide (AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4) strongly support AB 6 to establish a dedicated state office to ensure coordination of services, and to identify and facilitate financial assistance for early childhood education.

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 black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California