



February 20, 2019

Assembly Member Blanca Rubio
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0048

**RE: AB-167 (Rubio) Childcare and development services: infants and toddlers: state funding
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 5,000 California pediatricians strongly supports your bill AB 167 (Rubio) expanding access to high-quality child care for infants and toddlers from low-income families, by implementing the evidence-based standards of the Early Head Start model.

Early education is vital to the success of children, improving social skills, attention span and the likelihood of graduation from high school. The higher the quality of child care received by California's children, the more they will be able to achieve. However, it is difficult for working families in California to afford quality child care, especially for low-income families. California has the highest number of children living in poverty anywhere in the United States. Additional funding is needed to extend these necessary services to all of California's children.

The Child Care and Development Services Act established a system of childcare and development services for children from infancy to 13. AB 167 (Rubio) would create the California Childcare-Early Head Start Partnership, supplementing federal funds with state funding in grants to qualifying childcare and development programs and family childcare home education networks serving infants and toddlers from birth to 3 years of age. This important partnership will expand high-quality child care and support services to 20,000 more infants and toddlers in high-need communities.

By implementing evidence-based Early Head Start standards in targeted existing and new child care slots in California, AB 167 will support better trained teachers, strengthen family support services, offer developmental screenings, and provide connections to well-child health and dental care and other community resources.

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 that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne