

March 12, 2019

Senator Richard Pan, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 29 (Durazo): Medi-Cal: eligibility.
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Pan:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 29 (Durazo) ensuring all eligible Californians have access to Medi-Cal coverage regardless of immigration status.

California has demonstrated principled leadership in extending healthcare coverage to all Medi-Cal-eligible children, regardless of immigration status. However, undocumented youth continue to face the loss of healthcare coverage once they turn 18.

Insured children of the 1.5 million undocumented Californians without insurance suffer consequences from this coverage gap as well. Parents and caretakers who delay medical care for fear of its cost are more likely to suffer debilitating illness or injury, or to die a preventable death. Routine healthcare expenses alone can send a low-income family into chronic debt, deepening the cycle of poverty and depriving children of the resources they need to thrive.

The American Academy of Pediatrics advocates “for health insurance coverage for every child and every individual living in the United States, as lack of coverage for any family member affects the health of the entire family.” (Providing Care for Immigrant, Migrant, and Border Children,” June 2013).

SB 29 (Durazo) would protect the health of California children and their families by ensuring no low-income Californian is denied Medi-Cal coverage because of immigration status. According to the AAP policy statement cited above, “The future prosperity and well-being of the United States depends on the health and vitality of all of its children, without exception. Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support SB 29 (Durazo) and urge you to vote AYE. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of the children, youth, and families of California.

Sincerely,



Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership; AAP-CA Advocate Lydia Bourne