



April 2, 2019

Assemblymember Jim Wood, Chair
Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 1004 (McCarty): Developmental Screening
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly support AB 1004 (McCarty). Timely developmental screening is critically important for all young children. AB 1004 is a reasonable and essential measure to address current shortfalls in California's developmental screening of young children.

According to the National Survey of Children's Health, fewer than one in three California children receive timely developmental screenings, delaying any referrals to needed early intervention services. California ranks 43rd in the nation in the percentage of young children who receive timely screenings.

The Bright Futures Preventive Health Guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend that all infants and toddlers under the age of three should receive routine developmental screenings as part of a well-child visit. Early identification of developmental delays through screening is the first step to connecting children with support for healthy development. When children with or at risk of developmental or other delays are not identified early, they may not receive timely care and intervention services they need to address developmental delays or concerns. Unidentified delays during a child's first years of life can significantly impact a child's school readiness and have long-term effects on their overall well-being.

Enactment of AB 1004 would help to ensure that every California child, especially those who are low-income, has the opportunity to reach their full potential by having timely developmental screenings in Medi-Cal. The bill will accomplish this through data collection and quality improvement initiatives overseen by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the External Quality Review Organization as a way to monitor compliance of the use of validated developmental screening tools.

For these reasons, the American Academy of Pediatrics, California representing California pediatricians strongly supports AB 1004 and urges your AYE vote..



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin" with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Assemblymember Kevin McCarty AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne