

April 23, 2019

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell  
Chair, Committee on Education  
1020 N Street, Room 159  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 1098 (O'Donnell): Substance use disorders: youth programs.  
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member O'Donnell:

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 supports your proposed legislation AB 1098 (O'Donnell) establishing procedures for the implementation and administration of programs aimed at providing substance abuse education and prevention programs and substance use disorder treatment funded through the Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Account of the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA).

Substance abuse is one of the most widespread health issues affecting young people. As reported in the AAP Policy Statement "Substance Use Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment," "Twenty-eight percent of students have tried alcohol by eighth grade, and 68.2% have tried alcohol by 12th grade," while "Approximately half (50.4%) of 12th-graders have used any illicit drug (half of these, or 24.7%, reported the use of any illicit drug other than marijuana)."

While risk levels vary with the particular substance and level of use, the abuse of any amount of any illicit substance endangers an adolescent's health.

Given such high levels of substance use among adolescents, it is essential that we fund effective, evidence-based prevention programs to discourage substance use among California's young people.

In 2016, Proposition 64 (AUMA) decriminalized the personal possession and use of marijuana. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) estimates tax revenues from AUMA could be as much as \$1 billion per year, with 60% of that money going to Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment Account (YEPEITA) for programs designed to educate youth and to prevent substance use disorders. AUMA, however, does not specify the outcomes to be achieved, the funding priorities, how program spending is to be evaluated, or how the three implementing departments (Department of Health Care Services, California Department of Education, and Department of Public Health) are to work together.

AB 1098 (O'Donnell) would help codify the Legislature's preferences on these matters in statute, while maintaining flexibility to support iterative decision-making. It would encourage the development of effective substance abuse prevention programs for youth by establishing procedures for their implementation and administration, giving an advantage to evidence-based programs likely to have a substantial impact on the targeted populations.

Pediatricians across the state of California urge an AYE vote on AB 1098 (O'Donnell).

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; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne