



March 25, 2019

Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 1309 (Bauer-Kahan): Health care coverage: enrollment periods
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan:

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 1309 extending by two weeks the window for individuals to apply for health insurance through Covered California.

As of 2015, nearly 2.5 million Californians relied on Covered California for healthcare coverage, while nearly 3 million Californians remained uninsured in 2017. Both uninsured Californians who are looking for insurance and those already participating in the marketplace who desire to change their coverage would benefit from a longer open enrollment period, as they must navigate a complex, often confusing and exhausting array of options to find a plan that is right for them. The obstacles are especially high for those Californians who have limited free time due to work or family obligations, are not formally educated, do not speak English as a first language, or do not live in an area where the open enrollment period is well-publicized or explained to the public.

AB 1309 would help both uninsured Californians and all on the Covered California marketplace find adequate healthcare coverage by extending the open enrollment window by two weeks, thus allowing California families more time to make this important decision.

Pediatricians across the state of California support AB 1309. 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