

July 3, 2019

Assembly Member Miguel Santiago
Capitol Office, Room 6027
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 728 (Santiago): Homeless multidisciplinary personnel teams.
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Santiago:

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 728, which would, in the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Ventura, expand the scope of a homeless adult and family multidisciplinary personnel team (MDT) to include individuals who are at risk of homelessness and include case managers and case coordinators among the entities who may be included on an MDT.

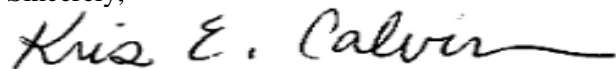
Though previous legislation has allowed data sharing among county MDTs to better coordinate interventions for those experiencing homelessness, they are not currently able to intervene before homelessness occurs. The cost of homelessness for California's children is extremely high. Children without homes are more likely to suffer from chronic disease, hunger, and malnutrition, often have significant psychosocial development issues, and their education is frequently interrupted.

Homelessness is estimated to affect over 200,000 California youth for at least one day every year. AB 728 would further California's fight against homelessness by helping to prevent homelessness before it happens.

Allowing MDTs to assist families deemed at high risk of homelessness before they actually become homeless would reduce the incidence of stress and trauma from homelessness for California families, while also making better use of scarce resources, as studies have repeatedly shown that it is far cheaper and more efficient to prevent homelessness before it occurs than to remedy it after the fact.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support your proposed legislation AB 728. 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