



July 8, 2019

Senator Connie M. Leyva
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 210 (Leyva):Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Leyva:

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 SB 210 as amended May 21, 2019 to direct the Air Resources Board (ARB) to work in coordination with multiple state agencies to develop and implement a Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Program for non-gasoline, heavy-duty, on-road trucks.

Heavy-duty vehicles, such as diesel trucks, comprise only about 5 percent of all vehicles on the road, yet they generate more than 25 percent of transportation-related emissions worldwide. Diesel exhaust is also a major source of fine particulates that lead to air pollution-related illnesses in children, including asthma. In California, where many important trucking corridors are located, rates of childhood asthma are significantly higher than the national average. Socioeconomically vulnerable children are more likely to live adjacent to highways and far from green spaces. Failing to take reasonable measures like SB 210 to reduce emissions from the heavy duty vehicles that use these highways contributes to preventable health disparities along socioeconomic lines among populations of children.

Although diesel trucks pose a hazard to the home environments of many children, families and adults in California, they are not covered by some of the most important regulations intended to curb dangerous emissions. Notably, California's smog check program does not cover trucks over 14,000 pounds, thereby exempting eighteen-wheeler transport trucks. SB 210 would help to address the problem of dangerous diesel emissions by eliminating this exemption. The bill's provisions would ensure that heavy-duty diesel trucks are adequately inspected and certified to be compliant with emissions standards, for the benefit of all Californians.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support SB 210. 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, appearing to read "N. Pfaff".

Nora Pfaff, MD
Governing Board
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
cc: AAP-CA leadership