

April 16, 2019

Senator Connie M. Leyva
Chair, Senate Committee on Education
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 321 (Mitchell) CalWORKs: supportive services: childcare
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Leyva,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California, representing over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4, strongly supports SB 321 (Mitchell) ensuring that CalWORKS recipients are provided with stable childcare options.

Families receive child-care services along three stages of the CalWORKS program, but that care can erroneously be discontinued between the stages. Continuity of care creates the stable conditions for children to thrive. Families can be thrown into crisis when they lose their child care, parents forced to forego work, limit their work hours, or struggle to pay for child care they cannot afford, leaving them unable to pay for basic necessities like food and rent. This level of stress can be toxic for children and have lasting negative effects.

Working families should not face unnecessary disruptions in the care they need to keep working and keep their children safe. SB 321 (Mitchell) ensures that families participating in CalWORKS continuously receive the care they need by requiring that the first stage or the second stage of childcare services not be discontinued until the family, if eligible, has been enrolled in the subsequent stage. SB 321 (Mitchell) also allows families in the first stage to opt for full-time rather than just part-time childcare.

SB 321 (Mitchell) would provide children whose families receive services through CalWORKS continuity of child care, and help their families to improve their financial stability.

Pediatricians across the state respectfully urge your AYE vote on SB 321 (Mitchell).

Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of the children, youth, and families of California.

Sincerely,



Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: The Honorable Holly Mitchell (author); AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne