



April 23, 2019

Assemblymember Tom Daly
Chair, Committee on Insurance
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 369
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1223 (Aguiar-Curry) Living organ donation
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Daly:

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 proposed legislation AB 1223 (Aguiar-Curry) adding an additional 30 days of unpaid leave to the already required 30 days of paid leave for the purpose of organ donation for public and private employees.

Living organ donation saves lives. For the tens of thousands of California residents suffering from organ failure, organ transplant is sometimes their only remaining medical option. According to DonateLife America, there are currently 2,000 children under the age of 18 waiting for a variety of organs, and nearly 25% of them are under 5 years old. Unfortunately, there is a severe shortage of available organs. While most organ donations are from deceased donors, living donors are also an option. One barrier to donating an organ, such as a kidney, is missing time from work.

The Michelle Maykin Memorial Donation Protection Act requires public and private employers to permit employees to take a leave of absence with pay, not exceeding 30 business days in a one-year period, for the purpose of organ donation. According to the Johns Hopkins Comprehensive Transplant Center, it can take from two to eight weeks for a living kidney donor to recuperate enough to return to work. While many donors would be able to recuperate within the 30 days already granted, some could not.

AB 1223 could increase the organs available for transplant by eliminating a barrier that may prevent someone from becoming a living donor. Pediatricians across the state urge you to vote AYE on AB 1223 (Aguiar-Curry).

Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership; the Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (author)