

April 15, 2019

Assemblymember Mark Stone
Chair, Assembly Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0002

RE: AB 1073 (Rubio) Immigration enforcement: shelters: sensitive locations
AAP-CA Position: Support

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4, strongly supports proposed legislation AB 1073 (Rubio) to authorizing the Attorney General to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to treat shelters in this state that provide services to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault as sensitive locations for purposes of federal immigration enforcement activities.

The California Values Act prohibits a California law enforcement agency from detaining an individual on the basis of a hold request by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), assisting federal immigration authorities with certain activities, inquiring into an individual's immigration status, or engaging in other specified activities relating to a person's immigration status. The act required the Attorney General to publish, by October 1, 2018, model policies limiting assistance with immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law at public schools, public libraries, health facilities operated by the state or a political subdivision of the state, courthouses, specified state facilities related to labor protections and benefits, and shelters. The act requires some specified entities, and encourages other entities, to comply with the model policies. AB 1073 would specifically authorize the Attorney General to enter into a memorandum of understanding with ICE to establish appropriate limitations on immigration enforcement activities at the locations described above and other specified locations that provide or relate to victim services.

Immigration enforcement by ICE in sensitive locations contributes to a climate of fear that stifles trust in local and state authorities and the ability for those in immigrant communities to receive necessary resources. This leaves many people unable to seek relief or redress for domestic violence and sexual assault. Further, children in these communities are especially vulnerable to the effects of fear generated by the lack of safe spaces for those who need services for themselves and their families. When a child experiences strong, frequent, prolonged adversity, such as exposure to domestic violence or sexual assault, they enter into a state of toxic stress. Toxic stress can disrupt development and increase the risk for stress-related diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, substance abuse, and depression.

The AAP-CA supports AB 1073 (Rubio) because we are concerned that immigration enforcement in sensitive areas threatens the ability for undocumented immigrants, including many families with children, to receive the services they need. By entering into a memorandum of understanding with ICE to treat shelters as sensitive areas, California's Attorney General will be able to send a powerful message that the state of California does not support this climate of fear.

Pediatricians across the state respectfully urge your AYE vote on AB 1073 (Rubio).

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: The Honorable Blanca Rubio; AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne