



April 15, 2019

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

RE: AB 1753 (Carrillo) Immigration Consultants
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Stone:

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 1753 (Carrillo) making it unlawful for a person, other than a licensed attorney or a person or organization federally-authorized to represent individuals in immigration matters, to provide immigration-related services for a fee.

Under the Immigrations Consultants Act (ICA), immigration consultants are not allowed to provide legal advice or represent clients in court. Immigration consultants have a very limited scope and little to offer a customer. As a result, consultants frequently cross the line into the unauthorized practice of law, dispensing legal advice to individuals desperate for immigration relief. There have been reports of immigration consultants offering false legal remedies, encouraging immigrants to apply for certain benefits when deadlines have passed, and suggesting they know someone at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or other immigration agencies who could speed up their processes.

Immigration law is extremely complex. Changes in recent years have added layers of complexity, while heightening the risk of deportation for non-citizens whose applications are denied. AB 1753 (Carrillo) would bring California law in line with longstanding federal regulations that authorize only attorneys and accredited representatives to provide legal advice and representation in immigration matters, including form preparation.

Pediatricians across the state respectfully urge your AYE vote on AB 1753 (Carrillo). 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 that reads "Kris E. Calvin" with a long, sweeping underline.

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: The Honorable Wendy Carrillo (author); AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne