



American Academy of Pediatrics, California
5000 Campus Drive Newport Beach, CA 92660
Phone (626) 796-1632 | **Fax** (626) 628-3382
Email: office@aap-ca.org | www.AAP-CA.org

March 17, 2020

Senator Lorena Gonzalez
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080

RE: SB 1073 (Gonzalez) MediCal: California Women, Infants, and Children
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Gonzalez,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, strongly supports SB 1073 to provide expedited enrollment in the Medi-Cal program by using eligibility information already collected by California Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and provide expedited enrollment in WIC by using eligibility information already collected by Medi-Cal.

Early prenatal care and preventive well-child care early in a child's life are critically important to ensuring healthy childhood development. Good nutrition is essential for good health at every age. Medi-Cal provides the former and WIC the latter to a shared population: low-income pregnant women and children under the age of six, regardless of immigration status. Accordingly, the two programs have similar eligibility requirements. Yet, per the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) approximately 87,000 children and 11,000 pregnant women enrolled in WIC do not have Medi-Cal despite their eligibility, and over 512,000 Medi-Cal children are eligible for WIC, but are not enrolled.

SB 1073 would allow the use of WIC eligibility findings from its enrollment data to enroll young children and pregnant women into Medi-Cal, expedite enrollment into WIC for those eligible young children and pregnant women enrolled in Medi-Cal, and gather information to expedite enrollment for new applicants to both programs.

By connecting pregnant women and children with Medi-Cal and WIC at their first or earliest contact, more California children would be on the right path to a healthy future.

Pediatricians across the state strongly support SB 1073 (Gonzalez). Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

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

Kris Calvin, CEO
American Academy of Pediatrics, California