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September 14, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 732 (Bonta): County jails: prisons: incarcerated pregnant persons.
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Governor Newsom,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP California) representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, strongly supports proposed legislation AB 732 (Bonta), as amended on August 20 2020. This bill would require that a person incarcerated in a county jail or state prison who is identified as possibly pregnant during an intake health examination be given access to necessary care, including laboratory work to confirm pregnancy and, if confirmed, an obstetrics examination, prenatal care, postpartum care, and access to community-based programs serving pregnant, birthing or lactating inmates, as well as hygiene products.

The American Academy of Pediatrics supports comprehensive reproductive health care for all adolescents and adults, regardless of whether or not they are incarcerated. Substantial bodies of research demonstrate that inadequate health care during pregnancy is linked to worse health outcomes for parent and child in both the short and long term. However, mothers and childbearing parents who are incarcerated are often not afforded adequate care since, unfortunately, county jails are not subject to the same legal requirements as state prisons with regards to providing reproductive care. Additionally, certain important aspects of reproductive health care are not covered in current regulations.

AB 732 (Bonta) would improve the health and well-being of children born to incarcerated parents by extending to those incarcerated in county jails the same reproductive health protections afforded to those incarcerated in state prisons, while also making these protections more specific and comprehensive, and prohibiting the shackling of pregnant inmates hospitalized or in labor.

Pediatricians across the state of California respectfully request your signature on AB 732 (Bonta). 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". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kris Calvin, CEO
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership