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August 12, 2020, 2020

Assembly Member Buffy Wicks
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249-0015

RE: AB 875 (WICKS) Pupil support services: COVID-19 Support Services and Resiliency for Children Program
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

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 your proposed legislation AB 875 as amended on July 2, 2020 which would establish the COVID-19 Support Services and Resiliency for Children Program. Under this program, the Superintendent of Public Instruction would be required to award grants to schools, local educational agencies, and other qualifying institutions, to pay the costs of planning and operating programs that provide support services related to COVID-19 to pupils and their families.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented demands on schools and other institutions that work with children and the pandemic is worsening existing educational disparities. AB 875 addresses this problem by using a pre-existing system (the Healthy Start Support Services for Children Program Council, which awards grants to schools and other institutions that provide support services to students) to address this resource gap.

Schools and other qualifying consortia need to be able to meet the new needs of children and families creatively and quickly. The funds provided by AB 875 will help address this need.

Pediatricians across the state strongly support AB 875. 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 black ink, appearing to be "Zarah Iqbal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Zarah Iqbal, MD MPH FAAP
Member, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: Kris Calvin, AAP CACEO; AAP CA Leadership