

August 17, 2020

Senator Jim Beall
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB-860 (BEALL): Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program: Financial Aid Applications
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Beall:

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 SB-860 as amended on May 12, 2020, which would require each county office of education (COE) Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) to ensure the students they serve in foster care fill out the forms necessary to receive financial aid for college.

According to a Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce study, 35 percent of job openings were expected to require at least a bachelor's degree by 2020 with 30 percent of job openings requiring some college or an associate's degree. Tuition and other costs associated with attaining a degree continue to rise making attaining a degree out of reach for many without some kind of assistance. To receive most forms of financial aid, students must fill out the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) of the California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

Virtually all foster youth meet the income eligibility requirements to receive Pell Grants and Cal Grants, but in 2017 the FAFSA completion rate among students in foster care was only 45%. SB 860 would require FYSCPs to provide support in filling out financial aid applications so foster youth can receive the aid to which they are entitled. The bill would also include FAFSA reporting rates on their bi-annual reporting requirements to track progress.

Pediatricians across the state of California urge an AYE vote on SB-860. 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: AAP-CA Leadership