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August 19, 2020

Assembly Member Laura Friedman  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0043

**RE: AB 1979 (FRIEDMAN): FOSTER YOUTH: HOUSING**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Friedman,

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 1979 as amended on July 28, 2020. This bill would expand housing options available for youth in the extended foster care system.

California's Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program allows eligible youth in the child welfare and probation systems to remain eligible for certain foster care benefits until age 21. While this program should be providing housing to participants, the shortage of housing leaves many foster youths homeless. Homeless youths are more likely to experience a wide range mental and physical health problems than those who are housed.

AB 1979 seeks to address the housing needs of older youth participating in EFC by expanding the definition of supervised independent living settings to include transitional living settings to support youth who are entering or reentering foster care or transitioning between placements and requiring that county placement agencies examine their ability to meet the emergency housing needs of non-minor dependents.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support AB 1979. 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 stylized flourish at the end.

Kris Calvin, Chief Executive Officer  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership

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*The American Academy of Pediatrics, California is the state-level advocacy organization of the four AAP California Chapters. Our mission is to promote the health and well-being of all children and youth in California and to support the professional needs of our California Chapter member pediatricians.*

*We are a 501(c)4 nonprofit legally incorporated in California.*