



**American Academy of Pediatrics, California**  
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May 11, 2020

Assembly Member Jim Wood, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Health  
Capitol Office, Room 6005  
P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

**RE: AB 2218 (Santiago) Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Chair Wood,

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 AB (Santiago) Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund as amended on May 4, 2020, which would provide grants to transgender-led (Trans-led) organizations and hospitals, health care clinics, and other medical providers that provide gender-conforming health care services and have an established partnership with Trans-led organizations to create or fund existing programs focused on coordinating trans-inclusive health care for people that identify as transgender, gender nonconforming, or intersex.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), despite advances in public awareness and legal protections, youth who identify as LGBTQ continue to face barriers to accessing quality health care, including mental health care. Barriers include safety issues such as the lack of safe clinical environments; poor access to physical health services, including testing for sexually transmitted infections; inadequate resources to address mental health concerns; fear of discrimination by providers and lack of continuity with providers. AB 2218 (Santiago) would provide funding for programs focused on removing these barriers.

AB 2218 (Santiago) would increase the capacity of health care professionals to effectively provide transgender health care and institute trans-inclusive best practices, help with success to supportive housing and provide grants to hospitals, health care clinics, or other medical providers that currently provide gender-affirming health care services so that they may continue to provide that care.

Pediatricians across the state strongly support AB 2218 (Santiago) and urge you to vote AYE .

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 that reads "Kris E. Calvin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kris Calvin, CEO  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California  
Cc: AAP Leadership