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March 10, 2020

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0059

RE: AB 1970 (Jones-Sawyer): Pilot Program For Free Tuition And Fees: Working Group
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

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 1970 as introduced on January 21, 2020, creating a work group to consider a pilot program providing free postsecondary education in the state to California residents.

According to the United States Department of Education, Americans with college degrees are healthier and more civically engaged and are more likely to have good-paying jobs with better job security. America's students, families, and economic strength depend on a higher education system that helps everyone succeed.

Unfortunately, tuition has risen astronomically and continues to rise, making the college education that confers socioeconomic mobility out of reach for the very people who need it the most. In the last 30 years, tuition at public four-year colleges and the average amount owed by a student borrower has more than doubled.

AB 1970 would open discussions on how to make college more accessible and affordable—especially for historically underserved students. Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support AB 1970. 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, appearing to read "Alice Kuo".

Alice Kuo, MD FAAP
President, District 2
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership

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.