

March 6, 2019

Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia, Chair  
Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife  
1020 N Street, Room 160  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 209 (Limón): Parks: environmental education: grants program**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, strongly supports proposed legislation AB 209 (Limón) increasing the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental education programs by establishing the Outdoor Equity Grants Program.

Children who participate in outdoor programs often demonstrate improvements in test scores, behavior, and emotional well-being. However, many of our most vulnerable students have little to no access to natural spaces, which are usually far removed from urban centers and unserved by mass transit. This puts these children at a marked disadvantage in their education and denies them the chance to experience their state's parks and public lands.

AB 209 (Limón) would help rectify this imbalance by establishing the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, increasing the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences on California's public lands. The grants program would specifically prioritize programs for foster youth, children from low-income families, and English language learners, thus ensuring that funds are directed towards those who stand to benefit the most.

Pediatricians across the state of California urge an AYE vote on AB 209 (Limón). 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: The Honorable Monique Limón; AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne