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March 23, 2020

Assembly Member Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2729 (Bauer-Kahan) Whole Health Access for Pregnant Persons
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member 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 2729 (Bauer-Kahan) as introduced on February 20, 2020 to expand the program currently known as Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (PE4PW) so that eligible pregnant people can have access to all medications and services covered by full-scope Medi-Cal while on PE4PW.

Maternal health directly affects the well-being of the fetus and newborn. PE4PW was designed so that pregnant people who appear to be eligible for but do not yet have Medi-Cal coverage can receive immediate, temporary coverage for conditions related to pregnancy. However, there are many conditions that are not specifically pregnancy-related that can contribute to infant mortality, low birth weight, and preterm birth among other problems. Because PE4PW only provides patients with access to pregnancy-related services and prescriptions, rather than the full scope of medication and services provided under Medi-Cal, some pregnant patients are denied coverage for these conditions.

AB 2729 (Bauer-Kahan) would expand the PE4PW program so that eligible pregnant people have access to all medication and services covered under full-scope Medi-Cal and also proposes to change the program name to Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant People (PE4PP) as a gender-neutral term that is more inclusive to non-binary, transgender, and gender, non-conforming Californians.

Pediatricians across the state strongly support AB 2729 (Bauer-Kahan) 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, appearing to read "Yasuko Fukuda" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yasuko Fukuda, MD FAAP
Chair, District IX
American Academy of Pediatrics, California