



April 16, 2019

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

**RE: AB 977 (Mark Stone): Medi-Cal: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment.
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

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 977 (Mark Stone), which would require the State Department of Health Care Services to develop and publish a report on Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services and to solicit comments from the public regarding the report.

EPSDT services are essential to the health and well-being of California's younger Medi-Cal recipients. Many health conditions become both more severe in their effects and harder to successfully treat over time. Others, such as many vision defects, may remain constant but produce cumulative ill effects in the child's educational attainment, social development or general well-being for as long as they go untreated. Children of lower-income families are more likely to have undiagnosed or untreated health conditions for longer periods of time, which can have lifelong implications for their health and well-being.

AB 977 (Stone) would help assure the effective, efficient delivery of EPSDT services by publishing results and soliciting comment from those members of the public who may have personal, professional or familial experience with EPSDT services useful to consider as the state strives to refine and improve service delivery.

Pediatricians across the state of California urge an AYE vote on AB 977 (Mark Stone).

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 Mark Stone; AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne