



American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS, CALIFORNIA



May 2, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 836 (Wicks) – Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers - Support

Dear Chair Gonzalez and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned health and medical organizations, we write in support of Assembly Bill 836 (Wicks), which creates an incentive program to create a network of clean air spaces to protect the health of vulnerable Californians during wildfire smoke events.

Between 2016 and 2018, wildfires in California burned over 2 million acres of public and private forestland and open space, destroyed over 24,000 homes, and resulted in the loss of over 120 lives. These wildfires demonstrated the impacts that such catastrophic events can have hundreds of miles away. Smoke from many of these fires traveled the length of the state causing significant health impacts to children and the elderly, as well as to those with existing respiratory problems. The American Lung Association's State of the Air 2019 report highlighted these risks, as 35 California Counties experienced increases in unhealthy particle pollution days compared to the prior report. The fires prompted air districts, county public health departments, and health organizations to mobilize to communicate local air quality conditions, multiday forecasts, and health messaging to the public.

This outreach effort has highlighted the need to provide clean air spaces to vulnerable populations, many of whom do not have ready access to properly ventilated and filtered spaces. In development of the incentive program guidelines, the California Air Resources Board would work with air districts, public health departments, cities, counties, school districts, and other nongovernmental stakeholders to identify facilities eligible for "clean air center" designation as well as facilities eligible for the incentive program to build or retrofit ventilation systems. These centers could include schools, community and senior centers, libraries, and other publicly accessible spaces, and would provide a substantial health benefit to vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, people with existing health problems, and disadvantaged communities.

Our organizations encourage you to support AB 836 when it comes before you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sattler, RN, DrPH, FAAN, Co-Founder
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Kris Calvin, CEO
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter

Will Barrett, Director, Clean Air Advocacy
American Lung Association in California

Robyn Rothman, JD
California Health Care Climate Alliance

Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH, Director
Center for Climate Change and Health

Anne Kelsey Lamb, MPH, Director
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP)