



June 7, 2019

Senator Bob Archuleta  
State Capitol, Room 4066  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 289 (Archuleta): Medi-Cal: home- and community-based services: military.  
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Archuleta:

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 your proposed legislation SB 289 to allow active duty service members to maintain their place on the Medi-Cal 1915 (c) waivers program waiting list if they maintain residency in California and to allow dependents of newly assigned service members to California to be eligible for Medi-Cal 1915 (c) waivers based on prior eligibility or enrollment in another state.

Active duty service members can receive transfer orders at any time; often these orders move them and their family out of state. When this happens the family loses their In-Home Operations (IHO) or Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS ) benefits and/or their position on the waitlist. Medi-Cal HCBS services allow beneficiaries the ability to receive medical care in the safety and comfort of their own homes. This includes many children living with severe illness or disability, who thanks to HCBS are not confined to institutional settings that may put them at a greater remove from the support networks offered them by family and friends. Naturally, any disruption to these critical in-home supportive services—or even the threat thereof—can be immensely stressful to an HCBS recipient and their family.

SB 289 would streamline the process of receiving HCBS services for military families by allowing active duty service members to maintain their eligibility status or their place on a Medi-Cal 1915 (c) waiver waiting list upon receiving orders to transfer out of state if they maintain residency in California. Upon return to California, these individuals would return to the status they had before their departure.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support SB 289. 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: AAP-CA Leadership