



March 25, 2019

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol, Room 2083  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 346 (Jackson): After school programs: Distinguished After School Health Recognition Program.  
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Leyva:

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 SB 346 (Jackson) establishing the Distinguished After School Health (DASH) Recognition Program to provide state recognition to those programs that undertake activities and interventions, as specified, to increase healthy eating and physical activity of children in their care.

In the past forty years, childhood obesity rates have risen dramatically across the country. Today, about one third of children in the United States are overweight or obese, a three- to four-fold increase since 1976. Eating and exercise habits are often set during childhood, and most overweight children will grow up to become overweight adults. Those who suffer most are often lower-income children whose families do not have access to affordable, nutritious food or safe spaces for outdoor recreation. A 2016 study found that in California, one in six 2- to 4-year-old The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants were obese.

According to the Afterschool Alliance, 1,661,000 children in California are enrolled in after-school programs, with an additional 2,435,000 waiting for placement in a program. By modeling healthy lifestyle choices, they can make a big difference in the lives of many children.

SB 346 (Jackson) would encourage the creation and recognition of child-healthy after-school programs by establishing the Distinguished After School Health Recognition Program, recognizing well-designed after school-programs so that parents may find it easier to choose a healthful program for their children.

Pediatricians across the state of California urge an AYE vote on SB 346 (Jackson). 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson; AAP-CA Leadership