

April 2, 2019

Senator Melissa Hurtado, Chair  
Committee on Human Services  
1020 N Street, Room 521  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SB 365 (Durazo): CalWORKs: immediate needs assistance.**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Hurtado:

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 365 (Durazo), which would grant CalWORKs immediate needs assistance to otherwise eligible recipients who have a rent payment due within 5 days that they are unable to pay and those who need childcare to maintain a job.

Child and youth homelessness is a widespread problem in California: data reported to the federal Department of Education show that nearly a quarter of a million California public school students experienced homelessness during the 2016-17 school year.

The American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement “Providing Care for Children and Adolescents Facing Homelessness and Housing Insecurity” highlights alarming ways that homelessness has been shown to negatively affect the health of children: “Child health and housing security are closely intertwined, and children without homes are more likely to suffer from chronic disease, hunger, and malnutrition than are children with homes. Homeless children and youth often have significant psychosocial development issues, and their education is frequently interrupted.”

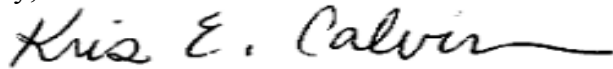
SB 365 (Durazo) would help to keep California children in their homes by authorizing CalWORKs assistance for eligible families who are unable to afford upcoming rent payments. This is far preferable to waiting until families have been turned out of their homes to address the problem “Permanent housing has been demonstrated to be more cost-effective and more stabilizing for families, who can be exposed to significant trauma while experiencing homelessness,” which is why AAP policy enjoins pediatricians to “Support policies and programs that”... aim to quickly place families in stable, permanent housing rather than a continuum of emergency and temporary housing”.

SB 365 would also extend help to those families where a parent may be able to provide for the family’s needs by working outside the home, but is unable to afford the necessary childcare.

Pediatricians across the state of California urge an AYE vote on SB 365 (Durazo).

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 Maria Elena Durazo; AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne