

April 3, 2019

Senator Steven Bradford
State Capitol, Room 2059
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 575 (Bradford) Cal Grants: Student Eligibility
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Bradford:

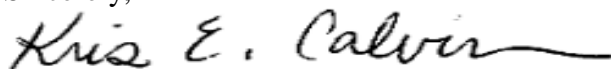
The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members statewide, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 575. This bill would amend the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program to no longer prohibit incarcerated students from being eligible to receive a Cal Grant.

Access to affordable education provides incarcerated young people with a better means to escape the cycle of poverty and recidivism. Employment rates for former inmates increased by nearly 10 percent, on average, after they participated in a college program. For those incarcerated who are young parents, or will become parents, earning an education in prison means that they are better equipped to provide for their own children upon release. Children born into poverty are at high risk of negative health consequences.

Currently, incarcerated students often face extreme difficulties in being able to afford the education that they need. Cost of books and supplies, estimated to be \$1700 annually for a student in community college, is an extraordinary expense for a student earning between 8 cents to \$1.00 an hour, who must also pay for necessities such as toothpaste, soap, and phone calls to their family. Without access to programs like the Cal Grant Program, young incarcerated students are less able to raise the same amount of funds necessary to get a quality education as their peers outside, even though they may be equally capable academically.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support your proposed legislation SB 575. 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, Weston Tountas AAP-CA Legislative Writer & Policy Analyst