

May 2, 2019

Senator Ben Allen
State Capitol, Room 4076
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 686 (Allen) California Promise Neighborhoods Act of 2019
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen,

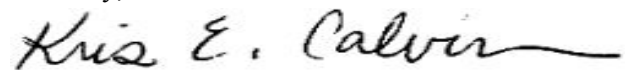
The American Academy of Pediatrics, representing over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 686 establishing the California Promise Neighborhood Grant Program.

Promise Neighborhoods are an effective means of serving areas of concentrated poverty. The federal Promise Neighborhood Initiative, created by the Obama Administration in 2010, awards grants to eligible entities, including non-profits and institutions of higher learning, to form a system of cradle-to-career services that expands opportunities for children and youth in distressed communities and helps them transition into college and a career. The Promise Neighborhood Initiative is place-based and community-driven, meaning that it gives people the resources to identify and cooperatively address the specific needs of their own local communities.

Across California, 1.6 million children live in poverty, and 17 percent of children live in communities of concentrated poverty. Many children suffer from limited educational and social opportunities because of the economic conditions of where they live. By helping provide children and youth in distressed communities with the tools to get an education and develop themselves in other ways, SB 686 would help to break the cycle of limited opportunity and empower communities to take action.

Pediatricians across the state strongly support SB 686. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of the children, youth, and families of California.

Sincerely,



Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: AAP-CA Leadership