

May 26, 2019

Senator Melissa Hurtado  
State Capitol, Room 3070  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 207 (Hurtado) Medi-Cal: asthma preventive services**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Hurtado:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 207 to include asthma preventive services as a covered benefit under the Medi-Cal program, as specified.

“Asthma is the most common chronic disease afflicting kids, affecting roughly 1.2 million of California’s children...when it’s not managed effectively, kids can end up in the emergency room, which takes a toll on children and their families, and is costly for the state...nearly 90 percent of all pediatric asthma emergency department visits are by children in Medi-Cal compared to only 50 percent back in 2012.” (Ted Lempert, President Children Now

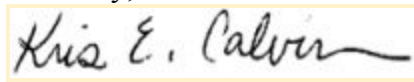
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Research indicates that asthma is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism, and students attending schools with the highest concentrations of low-income students are more likely to miss school because of asthma. Chronic school absenteeism puts students at risk for poor school performance and school dropout, which, in turn, puts them at risk for unhealthy behaviors as adolescents and young adults as well as poor long-term health outcomes.

SB 207 combines asthma education and environmental trigger remediation to address the burden of asthma in vulnerable communities.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support SB 207. 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