

March 19, 2019

Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell, Chair
Assembly Committee on Education
Legislative Office Building,
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 842 (Limón) Child nutrition: school, childcare, transitional kindergarten, and preschool meals
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member O'Donnell:

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 AB 842 (Limón) to ensure that each part-day and full-day California state preschool program provide at least one or two nutritious meals per day, respectively, to each child enrolled in the program.

More than 20 percent of California's nearly 2.5 million children between the ages of zero and five live in poverty and in a state of food-insecurity. Because of our high cost of living, many families must choose between which basic needs they meet each day. Childcare and preschool programs have a unique opportunity to support California's young children by helping them to meet their nutritional needs.

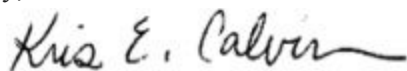
Good nutrition is essential for preschoolers to meet their growth and developmental needs. Poor nutrition can decrease a child's natural ability to fight infection, causing them to get sick more often, miss school, and fail to keep up with classmates. It also has negative impacts on activity level, social interaction, and cognitive functioning.

California already ensures that low-income pupils enrolled in K-12 receive at least one free or reduced-priced meal during each school day. AB 842 (Limon) would extend this guarantee to public preschool pupils, building a foundation for lifelong health for some of our most vulnerable populations.

Pediatricians across California respectfully urge your AYE vote on AB 842 (Limón).

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, CEO
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: AAP-CA Leadership; Assembly Member Monique Limón