

March 19, 2019

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan
Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 433 (Monning) Youth Development and diversion
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Pan:

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 proposed legislation SB 433 (Monning) establishing a pilot program to establish local Offices of Youth Development and Diversion (OYDD).

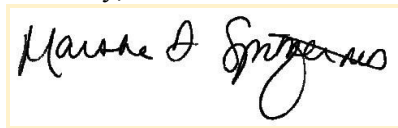
In 2017, more than 56,000 children and youth in California were arrested. Two-thirds of those arrests were for status and misdemeanor offenses. Although California law permits police officers to divert youth away from formal juvenile processing for many crimes, the majority of counties have no infrastructure in place to facilitate the diversion.

The harmful effects of involvement in the criminal justice system on the health and well-being of children has been well documented. Negative effects can include missing school, removal from families and community, and life-long consequences, including increased rates of dropping out of high school and incarceration. A disproportionate number of those who become involved in the criminal justice system are children of color, children with disabilities, girls, youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer, and foster children.

Communities with intentional diversion programs show improved outcomes for both youth and public safety. SB 433 (Monning) would allow California to create socially and fiscally responsible local youth diversion and development systems in counties with high youth arrest rates and high racial disparities among youth populations in those arrests.

Pediatricians strongly support SB 433 (Monning) and urge you to vote AYE. 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,



Marsha Spitzer, MD

Governing Board
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
cc: AAP-CA Leadership; Anna Johnson, MPP, Senior Policy Associate, National Center for Youth Law; Senator Bill Monning, author