

March 18, 2019

Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia,
Chair of the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 556 (Carrillo) Outdoor experiences: community access program
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia:

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 556 (Carrillo) authorizing the Natural Resources Agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth access to outdoor experiences

Children who participate in outdoor programs often demonstrate improvements in test scores, behavior, and emotional well-being. However, many of our most vulnerable children have little to no access to natural spaces, which are usually far removed from urban centers and unserved by mass transit. This puts these children at a marked disadvantage in their education and denies them the chance to experience the outdoors.

AB 556 (Carrillo) would help rectify this imbalance by requiring the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a community access program focused on engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education programs, or recreational amenities.

Pediatricians across the state of California support AB 556 (Carrillo) 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,



Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: The Honorable Wendy Carrillo; AAP-CA Leadership