
June 25, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ACA 5 (Weber) Government Preferences.
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Governor Newsom,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, strongly supports proposed Assembly Constitutional Amendment ACA 5 (Weber), as amended on June 4, 2020, which would ask the voters of California to vote on permitting the use of race, gender, and ethnic diversity as factors (but not decisive factors) in college admissions, government hiring, and government contracting.

A 2019 American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement asserts:

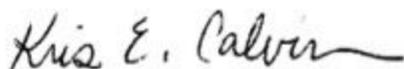
“Although progress has been made toward racial equality and equity, the evidence to support the continued negative impact of racism on health and well-being through implicit and explicit biases, institutional structures, and interpersonal relationships is clear...Pediatricians can advocate for community initiatives and collaborate with government and community-based organizations *to help redress biases and inequities in the health, justice, and educational systems.* [emphasis added] These strategies may optimize developmental outcomes and reduce exposure to adverse events that dramatically alter the lived experiences, health, and perceived self-value of youth.” (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-1765>)

The job market favors applicants with college degrees. Since the passage of Proposition 209 in 1996, underrepresented groups (URGs) are less likely to earn a college degree within six years or to ever earn a graduate degree according to a report from the University of California Office of the President (UCOP). With that decreased likelihood of higher education, URGs experienced declines in average wages. The COVID-19 pandemic will most certainly exacerbate these inequalities. By putting the question on the ballot and affording Californians the opportunity to reassess the policy question in light of the evidence, California can take steps to commit to greater equality and improve the lives of California’s children for years to come while also ameliorating the impacts of COVID-19 on our most vulnerable populations.

Pediatricians across the state strongly support ACA 5 (Weber).

Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Kris Calvin, CEO
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: AAP-CA Leadership