



American Academy of Pediatrics, California
5000 Campus Drive Newport Beach, CA 92660

Phone (626) 796-1632 | **Fax**
(626) 628-3382

Email: support@aap-ca.org | www.AAP-CA.org

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0031

RE: AB 4 (Arambula) Medi-Cal Eligibility.
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Arambula,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 3,000 pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 3 and 4 strongly support AB 4, as introduced on December 7, 2020, which would ensure all eligible Californians have access to Medi-Cal coverage regardless of immigration status.

California has demonstrated principled leadership in extending healthcare coverage to all Medi-Cal- eligible children, regardless of immigration status. However, undocumented youth continue to face the loss of healthcare coverage once they turn 18, and insured children of the 1.5 million undocumented adult Californians without insurance suffer consequences from this coverage gap. Parents and caretakers who delay medical care for fear of its cost are more likely to suffer debilitating illness or injury, or to die a preventable death. Routine healthcare expenses alone can send a low-income family into chronic debt, deepening the cycle of poverty and depriving children of the resources they need to thrive.

The American Academy of Pediatrics advocates “for health insurance coverage for every child and every individual living in the United States, as lack of coverage for any family member affects the health of the entire family.” (Providing Care for Immigrant, Migrant, and Border Children,” June 2013). AB 4 would protect the health of California children and their families by ensuring no low-income Californian is denied Medi-Cal coverage because of immigration status. According to the AAP policy statement cited above, “The future prosperity and well-being of the United States depends on the health and vitality of all of its children, without exception.”

Pediatricians of California AAP Chapters 1, 3 and 4 across the state strongly support AB 4. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacques Corriveau".

Jacques Corriveau, M.D. FAAP
Chair, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership