



American Academy of Pediatrics, California
5000 Campus Drive Newport Beach, CA 92660
Phone (626) 796-1632 | **Fax**
(626) 628-3382
Email: office@aap-ca.org | www.AAP-CA.org

April 19, 2021

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0047

RE: AB 47 (Reyes) Human services: coordinated immigration support services
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Reyes,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports AB 47 as amended on April 15, 2021, which creates multi-tiered and coordinated immigration support services to children and families who have been separated at the border as a result of the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policy.

Currently, at least 2,654 children have been detained separately from their families at the southern border. On January 27, 2021, the United States Justice Department ended Trump's "zero-tolerance policy" which was initiated on April 6, 2018 and which resulted in thousands of children being separated and detained without their parents. Once reunited, families continue to experience financial, legal, economic, and emotional hardships as a result of the separations they endured. Although the Federal government was ordered to provide mental health screenings and treatment, services have been limited and lack the coordination needed to meet immigrant family needs.

AB 47 would direct the department of Social Services to provide grants to qualified nonprofit organizations for the provision of multitiered and coordinated immigration support services in California to undocumented and mixed-status families who reside in the state and were separated by the federal government. AB 47 is a crucial step to ensuring families are connected to the support services they need to mitigate the negative effects of family separation.

AAP-CA strongly supports AB 47. 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 "Sharon Pham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Sharon Pham, MD, FAAP
Member, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership