



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

March 11, 2021

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 40 (Hurtado) California Medicine Scholars Program.
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Hurtado,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports SB 40 as amended on February 25, 2021, which would create the California Medicine Scholars Program.

According to a 2017 study from the Healthforce Center at University of California San Francisco, California will face a shortage of primary clinicians in the next 15 years with the Central Valley, Central Coast and Southern Border regions experiencing the worst shortages. Patients already face longer than average wait times to see a physician and may have to travel long distances to reach the closest physician, discouraging working families from seeking regular care. Lack of regular care leads to more acute medical conditions that could have been prevented with earlier and more regular access to a primary care physician.

The California Community Colleges comprise the largest system of higher education in the nation, with 2.1 million students attending 115 colleges, but they do not currently have a pipeline that would facilitate their students' ability to attend medical school.

SB 40 would establish the California Medicine Scholars Program (CMSP), a five-year pilot program that would create a regional pipeline program for community college students to pursue premedical training and enter medical school. The program would seek to address the shortage of primary care physicians in California and the widening disparities in access to care in vulnerable and underserved communities, by building a comprehensive statewide approach to increasing the number and representation of minority primary care physicians in the state.

AAP-CA strongly supports SB 40. 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 "Zarah Iqbal". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Zarah Iqbal, MD FAAP
Member, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership