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February 19, 2021

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 56 (Durazo) Medi-Cal Eligibility.
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Durazo,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports AB 4 as introduced on December 7, 2020, which would extend eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to individuals who are 65 years of age or older, and who are otherwise eligible for those benefits but for their immigration status.

California has demonstrated principled leadership in extending healthcare coverage to all Medi-Cal- eligible children, regardless of immigration status. However, 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). SB 56 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 SB 56. 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

cc: AAP Leadership