

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0048

RE: AB 366 Foster Youth
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rubio,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports AB 366, as introduced on February 1, 2021. AB 366 helps prevent sexually transmitted infections, unintended pregnancy, and poor prenatal and other health outcomes experienced disproportionately by California's foster youth and nonminor dependents by improving on existing law.

Youth in foster care face significant barriers accessing the education and services available to their peers not in care. A 2016 study found that, by age 19, about half of females in foster care reported having been pregnant at least once, more than twice the rate in the general population. Two-thirds did not describe these pregnancies as planned. Young people in foster care additionally reported disproportionately higher rates of sexually transmitted infections than their peers. In response to these concerns, the Department of Social Services developed new policies and practices and the Legislature approved SB 245 (Leyva) and it was included in SB 89, the human services omnibus budget bill, in 2017.

AB 366 improves upon existing law by extending the infant supplement three months prior to the expected delivery date of the child, helping pregnant foster youth access prenatal care, and other resources in a timely manner. It also ensures that county social workers include required information in reports to the juvenile courts and requires the Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Department of Health Care Services and the Department of Public Health, to report health outcome and performance data on implementation of youth sexual and reproductive health education, rights, and barriers to care.

AAP-CA strongly supports AB 366. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Nora Pfaff, MD FAAP
Chair, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership