

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Sydney Kamlager
State Capitol, Room 4062
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 382 (Kamlager) Whole Child Model
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Kamlager,

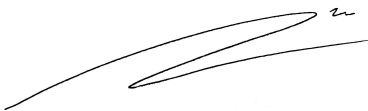
The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports AB 382 as introduced on February 2, 2021, which would extend the sunset date of the statewide California Children's Services (CCS) Whole Child Model (WCM) program stakeholder advisory group from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2023.

Existing law created the WCM for children enrolled in California Children's Services (CCS) and Medi-Cal in 21 counties to address delays in care for children, breaks in continuity of care, and increased cost to the state. The WCM Advisory Group brings together CCS children and their families, CCS providers, county CCS staff, and Medi-Cal Managed Care (MCMC) representatives to find the best ways to make the program work and evaluate if it should be expanded. The group was first authorized in 2016 with the expectation that their work would be completed by 2021. That has not, however, been the case. Delays in implementation have meant that decisions about expansion of the program won't take place until late 2022 or beyond.

If the WCM Advisory Group cannot continue its work past December 31, 2021, they will not be able to complete their evaluation of the program and submit that evaluation to the legislature. AB 382 will extend the sunset date so the Advisory Group can complete their important work.

AAP-CA strongly supports AB 382. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Melissa Ruiz, MD FAAP
Member, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership