

May 7, 2021

The Honorable Wendy Carillo  
1303 Tenth Street, Room 4167  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB-470 (Carillo) Medi-Cal: eligibility**  
**AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Carillo,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports AB 470, as amended on April 14, 2021, which would eliminate the asset limit for Medi-Cal programs serving seniors and persons with disabilities.

Currently, a senior or person with disabilities enrolled in a non-modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) Medi-Cal program is restricted to \$2,000 in a bank account and a couple to \$3,000. Other Medi-Cal beneficiaries, such as those under age 65, have no asset limit following the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. When faced with the decision of qualifying for Medi-Cal or having additional savings, most individuals rationally spend down their savings as the cost of their health care is more than they have saved. This puts seniors and people with disabilities at risk of further instability or homelessness when financial crises happen and prevents them from having adequate resources to weather a crisis such as an eviction, a leaking roof, or a major vehicle repair.

AB 470 eliminates the asset test for both initial Medi-Cal applications and for redeterminations. The elimination of the asset test in public programs reflects a shift away from requiring low-income people to deplete all their resources prior to receiving help. Extending this policy to older Californians and persons with disabilities aligns with this shift as well as creating parity between Medi-Cal programs.

AAP-CA strongly supports AB 470. 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