

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
State Capitol, Room 2068
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 245 (Gonzalez) Health care coverage: abortion services: cost sharing
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Gonzalez,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports SB 245, as introduced on January 22, 2021, which would require state-licensed commercial health plans and insurers to cover abortion care without imposing co-payments, deductibles, or any type of cost-sharing.

Abortion access is a legal right in California, and California is one of six states that require health insurance plans to cover abortion. Californians who have commercial insurance, however, must still make cost-sharing payments in the forms of deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments. The University of California, San Francisco conducted a five-year longitudinal study of roughly 1,000 women seeking abortion care at 30 facilities across the United States and found that for more than half of women who received an abortion, their out-of-pocket costs were equivalent to more than one-third of their monthly personal income.¹ These high costs create a significant barrier to care and disproportionately affect people of color, transgender and non-binary individuals, people with disabilities, young people, and people experiencing poverty, perpetuating systemic health care disparities.

SB 245 would require state-licensed commercial health plans and insurers to cover abortion care without imposing any cost-sharing, removing cost barriers that keep some Californians from being able to access this legal right.

AAP-CA strongly supports SB 245. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Nancy Graff, MD FAAP
Member, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership

¹ <https://www.ansirh.org/research/ongoing/turnaway-study>