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March 8, 2021

The Honorable Richard Pan
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 250 (Pan) Healthcare Coverage.
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports SB 250, as introduced on January 25, 2021, which would reduce administrative burdens by reforming prior authorization and billing processes.

Physicians and their staff spend large amounts of time dealing with paperwork relating to prior authorizations and billing processes, time that could be better spent with patients providing healthcare. These time consuming tasks can also delay needed care for some patients and interrupt continuity of care for others. The process is inefficient and prone to errors that can negatively impact patient outcomes. Hospital-based physicians often must collect copays and deductibles from patients, putting them in the middle of a process that is based on a contract between the payor and the enrollee, not the physician.

Utilization review systems used by health plans already collect the data needed to streamline the prior authorization system. SB 250 seeks to free physicians from having to submit prior authorizations repeatedly and would simplify the billing processes used by physicians in hospital settings allowing them more time to focus on their patients rather than paperwork. Streamlining the process will also benefit patients who currently must navigate a confusing system with bills and Explanations of Benefits (EOB) forms coming at different times and from different sources and remove the physician from the process of collecting cost-sharing amounts.

AAP-CA strongly supports SB 250. 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

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California is the state-level advocacy organization of California AAP Chapters 1, 3 and 4. Our mission is to promote the health and well-being of all children and youth in California and to support the professional needs of our California Chapter member pediatricians. We are a 501(c)4 nonprofit legally incorporated in California.