

March 25, 2021

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

RE: SB 306 (Pan) Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Testing.
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Pan,

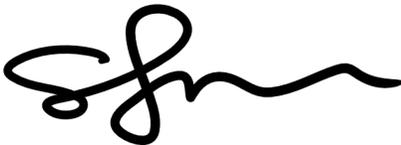
The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports SB 306 as amended on March 24, 2021, which would allow pharmacists to provide expedited partner treatment (EPT) for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), require private and public health insurance coverage to cover home STD kits, add EPT treatment and liability protections for physicians when diagnosing and treating STDs, allow HIV counselors to perform specified STD tests, and allow reimbursement in the Family PACT program for STD-related services to uninsured, income eligible patients, or patients without healthcare coverage with confidentiality concerns who are not at risk for pregnancy or do not need contraceptive services.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in 5 people in the United States have a sexually transmitted disease.¹ In 2018, nearly 340,000 Californians were infected with syphilis, chlamydia, or gonorrhea, an increase of 40 percent since 2013. As rates of syphilis and other STIs have risen, so too have cases of congenital syphilis, almost tripling from 2014 to 2018 across the US. Untreated syphilis in pregnancy leads to stillbirth or death of the newborn in approximately 40% of cases. Treating the partners of women with syphilis is crucial in preventing reinfection and preventing congenital syphilis, which can lead to bone problems or blindness or deafness in children. STDs like syphilis or gonorrhea also increase both the transmission and acquisition of HIV.

Lack of access to care, confidentiality, and cost are all cited as reasons people -- especially young people aged 15 to 25 -- give to explain why they don't seek testing or care for STDs.² By making it easier to provide EPT and test for STDs and expanding healthcare coverage for STDs, SB 306 would grant more access to STD care at a time when rates are rising.

AAP-CA strongly supports SB 306. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Sharon Pham, M.D. FAAP
Member, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/prevalence-incidence-cost-2020.htm>

² <https://khn.org/news/young-people-at-risk-for-stds-often-dont-get-tested-study/>