

April 12, 2021

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
State Capitol, Room 4032  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB-428 Health care coverage: adverse childhood experiences screenings**  
**AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hurtado,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports SB 428 as introduced on February 12, 2021. This bill would require health care service plans to provide coverage for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) screenings.

The term “adverse childhood experiences” refers to an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ACEs can stem from exposure to specific events, such as witnessing or experiencing violence in the home, or from exposure to unsafe situations, such as growing up in a household with substance abuse or parental instability.<sup>1</sup>

The CDC reports that ACEs are common. About 61% of adults surveyed across 25 states reported that they had experienced at least one type of ACE, and nearly 1 in 6 reported they had experienced four or more types of ACEs. ACEs can have lasting, negative effects on health, well-being, and opportunity. These experiences can increase the risks of injury, sexually transmitted infections, maternal and child health problems, teen pregnancy, involvement in sex trafficking, and a wide range of chronic diseases and leading causes of death such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and suicide. Early detection and intervention has been shown to prevent or reduce the health risks associated with ACEs.

SB 428 would make sure that providers are reimbursed appropriately for ACEs screening, making it easier and more affordable for everyone to receive these important health care benefits. AAP-CA strongly supports SB 428. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Jacques Corriveau, MD FAAP  
Chair, State Government Affairs Committee  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html>