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April 20, 2021

The Honorable Pat Bates  
State Capitol, Room 3063  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 473 (Bates) Health care coverage: insulin cost sharing.**  
**AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Bates,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports SB 473, as amended on March 10, 2021, which would prohibit health plans and health insurance plans from imposing cost sharing on a covered insulin prescription, except for a copayment not to exceed \$50 per 30-day supply of insulin, or \$100 total per month.

The number of children with Type 2 diabetes has risen sharply. Insulin is essential for diabetics. It helps them maintain appropriate blood glucose levels and reduces the risk of associated complications. Serious complications can arise when insulin is not taken as prescribed. People with diabetes are more likely to die of COVID-19.<sup>1</sup> In a 2018 report from the American Diabetes Association, more than a quarter of respondents have taken less insulin than prescribed, changed to a different brand, missed doses, or had to choose between insulin and other necessities all due to cost. In the case of people with diabetic dependent children, the number rose to 34%.<sup>2</sup>

SB 473 would place a cap on the co-payment that health plans and health insurance plans can charge for insulin and would provide coverage for diabetes outpatient self-management training, education, and medical nutrition therapy helping to make these necessary treatments affordable for all who need it.

AAP-CA strongly supports SB 473. 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.healthline.com/health-news/covid-19-impact-on-diabetes-hospitalizations>

<sup>2</sup> <http://main.diabetes.org/dorg/PDFs/2018-insulin-affordability-survey.pdf>