

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Capitol Office
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 426 (Bauer-Kahan) Toxic air contaminants.
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports AB 426, as amended on March 17, 2021, which would expand the current authority of Air Pollution Control Districts (APCD) and Air Quality Management Districts (AQMD) to request and measure data from indirect sources of air pollution and evaluate health risks on surrounding communities.

Growing up in areas with high diesel air pollution is one of the factors that contributes to high rates of asthma among youth. According to a study done in the East Bay, children who live near freeways have a much higher likelihood for respiratory symptoms than those who do not. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), “children are more vulnerable to the adverse effects of air pollution than adults and are disproportionately exposed to sources of air pollution such as school bus exhaust. Air pollution is associated with respiratory problems, asthma, premature births, infant mortality, and deficient lung growth.”¹

AB 426 will expand authority to Air Quality Control Districts and Air Pollution Control Districts to reduce pollution and improve air quality standards for California by adding toxic air contaminants, including diesel particulates, to the pollutants covered under air districts’ indirect source rules and allowing air districts to collect data under a local indirect source rule so that local health risks can be properly assessed.

AAP-CA strongly supports AB 426. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Angela Dangvu, MD FAAP
Member, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership

¹ <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Injury-Violence-Poison-Prevention/Pages/Health-Professionals-Air-Quality.aspx>