

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



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California Chapter 2 - Kern | Los Angeles | Riverside | San Bernardino
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The Honorable Cristina Garcia (AD-58)
State Capitol
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Re: AB 1001 Environment: Mitigation Measures for Air Quality Impacts: Environmental Justice – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Garcia,

The American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 2, which represents over 1,000 pediatricians, is in full support of AB 1001, which would 1. Require that mitigation measures identified in an environmental impact report or mitigation negative declaration must mitigate those impacts directly within the disadvantaged community and 2. Directs public agencies implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to give consideration to the principles of environmental justice.

The CEQA is intended to inform public agencies and communities surrounding a potential project about the environmental impact of that project to inform decisionmakers about the negative impacts a project may have on air quality within a community. Within the CEQA there are mitigation measures, however, these measures are not always applied to the specific, disadvantaged communities they affect. As a result, some communities have been overburdened by the environmental impacts of poor air quality.

Children are disproportionately impacted by changes in their environment, and these impacts are amplified by racial and socioeconomic disparities. Air quality specifically impacts child health by worsening asthma and is associated with preterm birth, abnormal lung and neurodevelopment, pediatric cancer, and obesity. Ensuring that California's children, particularly those from overburdened and disadvantaged communities, have access to clean air, must be a priority.

AB 1001 strives to recognize the adverse impacts that disadvantaged communities have faced and promotes creating healthier communities by requiring mitigation or compensation and additional considerations of environmental justice.

Sincerely,

Karinne Van Groningen, MD, MPH
Legislative and Policy Analyst
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