

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 Scott Wiener
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Re: SB 234 (Wiener) Transition Aged Youth Housing Program – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wiener,

The American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 2 (AAP-CA2), which represents over 1,000 pediatricians, is in full support of SB 234, which would create a forgivable loan program of \$100 million to be used to create new housing, or acquire existing housing, for youth between ages 16 and 26, who are currently or formerly in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or under probation supervision.

Housing instability is pervasive among transition aged youth in extended foster care, which provides services to former youth in foster care up to the age of 21. Chapin Hall's recent CalYouth study found that over 35% of youth reported they experienced homelessness while actively enrolled in extended foster care. Unstable housing has long-term consequences as it affects the pursuit of higher education, meaningful employment, and self-sufficiency. Without increasing the amount of available housing for transition aged youth, this vulnerable population will be at continued risk for homelessness, negative health impacts, and risk of mental health and addiction issues. Investing in housing today will have lasting benefits for the health of transition aged youth.

Ensuring transition aged youth have access to housing is imperative for their health and development. AAP-CA2 strongly supports SB 234. Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of children and youth within California.

Sincerely,

Karinne Van Groningen, MD, MPH
Legislative and Policy Analyst
AAP-CA2