

8/11/08

To: AAP-CA SGA Representatives

cc: AAP-CA Committee, Expert Listserve and Executive Board

Re: AAP-CA Sponsored Bill: AB 2580 --Middle School Pertussis requirement

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AAP-CA is a cosponsor of AB 2580 (Arambula), a bill to require a pertussis booster at Middle School entry.

The bill, which moved through the Legislature with bipartisan support until now, has stalled in Senate Appropriations. Although the bill would save money in the longer term due to reduced state costs for infants and others who contract pertussis and are treated through public programs, the Appropriations Committee appears to be considering only the direct cost to the state of \$270,000 for administering Tdap through Medi-Cal.

It is imperative that pediatricians contact members of the Senate Appropriations Committee (see list that follows). Phone is best, since time is short, but faxes or emails are also powerful.

TALKING POINTS:

Please keep your message short and to the point. (If you have had specific experience with a patient with pertussis, particularly with reference to length of stay or approximate costs, that anecdote is worth sharing.)

- 1) Health care costs to the State are substantial if we do not pass this bill. Medi-Cal costs to the State run between \$12 -17 million dollars per year to treat patients with pertussis. Additional and substantial costs are incurred in the private insurance sector as well.
- 2) Infants and young children are at greatest risk for death from pertussis. We have the opportunity to dramatically reduce incidence of pertussis with this school mandate.
- 3) The cost of this bill is very small in relation to the impact it can have on the health of students, their families and the public.

SENATE APPROPRIATION MEMBERS:

Please contact a member if you live or work in their district. (To determine who your state senators are go to www.leginfo.ca.gov, check legislators and enter your zip code.)

Senator Tom Torlakson (Chair)

- District 07 (Contra Costa)

- Phone: (916) 651-4007

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Senator Dave Cox (Vice Chair)

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Senator Joe Simitian

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Thanks much,
Kris