



American Academy of Pediatrics, California Opposition to Proposition 44

As California voters consider Proposition 44, the American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) has joined a broad coalition of physicians, nurses, community health centers, and patient advocates in urging you to [Vote NO on Proposition 44](#). AAP-CA's opposition is rooted in concerns that, rather than improving patient care, the measure could unintentionally reduce access to healthcare for children, families, and vulnerable populations throughout California.

What Proposition 44 Would Do

Proposition 44 would require nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Centers and community clinics serving medically underserved populations to spend at least **90% of their annual revenue on "program services."** Clinics that fail to meet the spending threshold could face significant financial penalties.

Supporters argue the measure would direct more resources toward patient care and reduce excessive administrative spending. However, AAP-CA and other healthcare organizations contend that the proposal is overly restrictive, poorly designed, and could harm the very patients it seeks to help.

Instead, opposition argues, the measure would create rigid spending requirements that limit a clinic's ability to invest in essential infrastructure, workforce development, technology, and operational support necessary for quality patient care.

Proposition 44 is a Threat to Children's Access to Care

For pediatricians, one of the greatest concerns is the potential impact on children and families who rely on community clinics for healthcare.

Community health centers provide critical services including:

- Pediatric primary care
- Immunizations
- Developmental screenings
- Behavioral and mental health services
- School-based healthcare
- Prenatal care and family support services

AAP-CA argues that Proposition 44 could force clinics to cut services, reduce staffing, or close locations, particularly in underserved and rural communities where alternative healthcare options may not exist.

The [2026 General Election Official California Voter Information Guide](#) opposition statement warns that community clinics serve "1 in 4 Medi-Cal patients" and provide care to uninsured Californians, children, seniors, veterans, and working families. It further argues that many communities depend on these clinics as their only accessible source of healthcare.

Restricting Essential Healthcare Operations

A central argument from AAP-CA and its coalition partners is that Proposition 44 adopts an unrealistic definition of healthcare spending and the measure could restrict funding for:

- Nurse managers
- Physician leadership
- Translation and interpretation services
- Insurance enrollment assistance
- Community outreach and education
- Information technology systems
- Medical equipment and facility improvements

Opponents contend that these functions are not administrative luxuries; they are essential components of delivering safe, effective, and equitable healthcare. For pediatric patients especially, language access services, care coordination, and community health outreach often play a critical role in ensuring children receive timely preventive care and follow-up treatment.

Existing Oversight Already Exists

AAP-CA also argues that Proposition 44 is unnecessary because community health centers already operate under extensive federal and state oversight.

According to the official voter guide opposition argument, community clinics are subject to strict regulatory requirements, mandatory audits, funding restrictions, and governance by community-based boards. As nonprofit organizations, clinics are already required to devote resources to patient services and community benefit. From this perspective, Proposition 44 creates a new layer of regulation without demonstrating that existing accountability mechanisms are insufficient.

A Pediatric Perspective

The mission of AAP-CA is to advance the health and well-being of California's children. Through that lens, the organization views Proposition 44 as a proposal that could

jeopardize access to preventive care, behavioral health services, and school-based health programs that many children depend upon every day.

AAP-CA's opposition reflects concern that clinics need flexibility to invest in the staff, technology, facilities, and community programs that support comprehensive healthcare delivery. Rather than creating a rigid spending mandate, the organization believes policymakers should strengthen community clinics' capacity to serve patients and expand access to care.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California opposes Proposition 44 because it believes the measure would place community health clinics under an inflexible spending requirement that could reduce services, destabilize clinic operations, and ultimately harm patient access to care. AAP-CA joined physicians, nurses, and patient advocates in warning that Proposition 44 could "shut down hundreds of community health clinics and eliminate vital patient services for millions of Californians."

For AAP-CA, protecting children's access to comprehensive, community-based healthcare remains the central reason for opposing the measure.

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