



March 22, 2018

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr.
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ??A?B 1931 (Fong) Firearms: licenses to carry concealed firearms
AAP-CA Position: Oppose

Dear Chair Jones-Sawyer,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly opposes AB 1931 (Fong), which would extend the validity of the concealed carry firearm license from a period of 2 years to 5 years.

Gun violence is among the greatest public health crises facing children and youth. Nearly 7,000 children younger than 18 are killed or wounded by gunshots each year. Firearm-related deaths are the third leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 17, outpaced only by death from car crashes and drownings and illnesses like cancer.

It is imperative that we do all within our power to reduce gun violence. Dr. Colleen Kraft, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics states, “We can start by working to advance meaningful legislation that keeps children safe. The American Academy of Pediatrics advocates for stronger state and federal gun laws that protect children, including a ban on assault weapons like the one used in [Parkland, Florida] school shooting. We also call for stronger background checks, solutions addressing firearm trafficking, and encouraging safe firearm storage.”

AB 1931 (Fong) would extend the validity of the concealed carry license from 2 years to 5 years, weakening sensible gun laws. Many health concerns, mental illnesses, and changes can happen in 5 years. As such, it is not an appropriate interval for screening for licenses for concealed firearms.

Pediatricians across the state urge you to vote NAY on AB 1931 (Fong). Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "RJK".

Suzanne Higgins Stewart, MD
Resident Representative Member, AAP-CA State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Assembly Public Committee Members
Office of Honorable Vince Fong, California State Assembly (Author)
AAP-CA CEO Kris Calvin; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne; Addison S. Gearhart, MD and Kaidi He, MD, Senior Policy Analysts