



---

March 26, 2018

The Honorable Benjamin Allen  
Chair, Senate Education Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2083  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ??SB 1104 (Roth) Pupil safety: human trafficking prevention resources**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Chair Allen,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports SB 1104 (Roth), to require each California school district to work with their middle schools and high schools to identify the most appropriate methods of informing parents and guardians of pupils of human trafficking prevention resources, and to implement the identified methods in those schools.

A study by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime estimates that 33% of identified trafficking victims are children.

“Both boys and girls can be victims. The average age of introduction into sex trafficking is 12 to 16 years. Teens are vulnerable to this manipulation because they have limited life experiences, and are less able to think critically and analyze the risks and benefits of harmful situations. At especially high risk are runaways, homeless youth and ‘throwaway’ youth—those kicked out of their homes.” —AAP Outlines Medical Needs of Child Sex Trafficking Victims, March 2015

Children and young people who are victims of human trafficking suffer physical, emotional/mental and social consequences. Sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, can have lifelong detrimental health effects. Malnourishment in trafficked children affects their growth and development. Many victims end up abusing substances, either initiated forcibly by the traffickers or as a form of coping. Mental and emotional consequences include PTSD, depression, anxiety, isolation and suicidal ideation/attempts.

SB 1104 (Roth) would ensure that school districts provide parents and guardians of middle and high school students critical information and resources to identify indicators that a child is being groomed for trafficking, complementing existing teacher and student education in this area.

Pediatricians members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state urge you to vote AYE on SB 1104 (Roth). 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 black ink, consisting of a large loop on the left followed by several smaller, connected loops and a final horizontal stroke on the right.

Jayne Congdon, M.D., M.S.

Resident Representative Member, AAP-CA State Government Affairs Committee

American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Senate Education Committee Members

Office of Honorable Richard Roth, California State Senate (Author)

AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne; Jennifer Cruz Bracero, MD, Amanda M. Schafenacker, MD, and Judy Magpayo – Policy Analysts