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May 21, 2018

The Honorable Todd Gloria  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ?AB 2103 (Gloria) Firearms: license to carry concealed  
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assemblyman Gloria,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians statewide, supports your proposed legislation AB 2103, to ensure that every person who carries a concealed weapon in public in California has received appropriate training in the safe handling and firing of firearms.

The Centers for Disease Control report that in 2016, 4,927 children and youth age birth to 21 years, died from firearm injuries, and another 21,764 were non-fatally injured. Firearm related homicide and suicide are second only to motor vehicle crashes as a leading cause of death among teens and young adults. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy states that to ensure the safety of children, “pediatricians should continue to advocate for the strongest possible legislative and regulatory approaches to prevent firearm injuries and deaths.”

Existing law requires an applicant for a Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) licence to be trained for a maximum of 16 hours on firearm safety and laws regarding the permissible use of a firearm. AB 2103 would add a minimum of eight hours.

AB 2103 would require the training to include instruction on firearm handling and shooting, technique, a demonstration by the applicant of shooting proficiency and safe handling of each firearm the applicant will be licensed to carry, and exercises conducted on a firing range. AB 2103 would also require local licensing authorities to develop specific proficiency standards and make those standards available to the public. These common sense actions will ensure our children stay safe from firearm injuries.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly support proposed legislation AB 2103 (Gloria). Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

*Kris E. Calvin*

Kris Calvin  
Chief Executive Officer, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne