



August 29, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1067 (Gipson) Foster children: rights
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Governor Brown:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing 5,000 California pediatricians strongly supports AB 1067 (Gipson). This bill would convene a working group which would establish standardized information about the rights of children in foster care in order to educate them as well as foster care providers and health care providers about their rights.

Although most children enter foster care with medical, mental health, or developmental problems, many do not receive adequate or appropriate care while in placement. Psychological and emotional problems, in particular, may worsen rather than improve. According to the National AAP:

“... placement in foster care provides an opportunity and a responsibility to address all of the health care needs of this very high-risk group of children. Health care practitioners can play a significant role in providing care and assisting foster parents and caseworkers to ensure that children receive appropriate services in a timely fashion.” (2000)

This bill directly aligns with the goals and mission of the AAP. Pediatricians, therefore, respectfully urge you to sign AB 1067 and thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Stuart Cohen, AAP-CA Chair; Lydia Bourne, AAP-CA Legislative Advocate; AAP-CA Leadership