



May 16, 2017

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080
Fax: (916) 319-2180

RE: AB 1221 (Gonzalez Fletcher): Responsible Beverage Service Training Program Act of 2017
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher:

I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 5,000 California pediatricians to let you know that we strongly support your bill AB 1221 (Gonzalez Fletcher), known as the Responsible Beverage Service Training Act. This bill would require those who serve alcohol and their managers to undergo training on responsible beverage service.

In 2014, nearly 10,000 people in the United States were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes. This accounts for nearly 1/3 of all traffic-related fatalities in the United States—and, of course, many of those killed are passengers, other drivers, or bystanders who had no control over the situation. Among the many tragic examples is the 2015 case in which two UCSD medical students were killed and three more seriously injured when a drunk driver collided with their car, causing immense pain to their friends and families and ending promising medical careers. As pediatricians, of course, we are first and foremost concerned for the safety of children; and of the 1,070 traffic-related deaths of children 14 years old and under, 19% involved an alcohol-impaired driver.

All of these deaths could have been prevented. Among the many ways in which we can prevent future tragedies is educating and empowering servers of alcoholic beverages to serve responsibly and intervene when necessary, through a Responsible Beverage Service educational program that will help them to fulfill their statutory obligation not to serve to obviously intoxicated individuals. This will reduce public intoxication and thus drunk driving, as fewer people will be getting behind the wheel while heavily intoxicated.

California pediatricians strongly support AB 1221 (Gonzalez Fletcher). We 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 black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Graff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Graff".

Nancy Graff, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
State Government Affairs Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Kris Calvin, CEO; AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne