



February 18, 2016

The Honorable Mike A. Gipson
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4164
Sacramento, CA 94249-0064
Fax: (916) 319-2164

RE: AB 1673 (Gipson): Firearms: Unfinished Frame Or Receiver
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Mike A. Gipson:

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 proposed legislation AB 1673. AB 1673 would expand the definition of “firearm” to include an unfinished frame or receiver that can be readily converted to the functional condition of a finished frame or receiver. By expanding the definition, this bill would make it possible for the government to keep track of firearms that would otherwise be untraceable (i.e. self-assembled firearms).

Firearm homicide rates among children and youths are 35.7 times higher in the United States than in other countries. Factoring in gun-related suicides and unintentional firearm injuries, gun violence is among the top three causes of death for American youths. With guns in nearly 38% of all households, stricter gun control legislation is essential to reducing the rate of firearm deaths and injuries.

The AAP supports the strongest possible “regulation of the manufacture, sale, purchase, ownership, and use of firearms.” (Text from the AAP Policy Statement on Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population, 2012) By allowing the government to keep track of self-assembled firearms, AB 1673 would expand gun regulation that limits child access to firearms.

California pediatricians support AB 1673, and 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, enclosed within two vertical lines. The signature is a stylized, cursive representation of the name 'Mona Patel'.

Mona Patel