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February 19, 2016

The Honorable Susan Eggman  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3173  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0078  
Fax: (916) 319-2113

**RE: AB 1730 (Atkins and Eggman): Human Trafficking: Minors**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Susan Eggman:

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 1730. AB 1730 would authorize the chief probation officer of a county to create a program for minors who have been found to be within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court that provides services relating to the commercial sexual exploitation of youth.

Human trafficking is a major global health concern. Roughly 33% of victims are children, who are at increased risk of injury, sexual assault, homicide, infectious diseases, substance abuse, mental health disorders, and suicide.

The AAP strongly encourages pediatricians to “work with law enforcement, social services, behavioral health professionals, and service organizations” to address the needs of exploited children. (Text from the AAP clinical report on Child Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Health Care Needs of Victims, 2015). AB 1730 would help provide services for youths within the juvenile justice system, providing opportunities for victims to receive treatment for the physical and mental health problems associated with commercial sexual exploitation.

California pediatricians support AB 1730, 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, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'S' followed by a long horizontal line.

