



February 18, 2016

The Honorable Philip Ting
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3123
Sacramento, CA 94249-0019
Fax: (916) 319-2119

RE: AB 1732 (Ting): Single-user restrooms
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Philip Ting:

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 1732. AB 1732 would require any business, government buildings, or place of public accommodation to identify all single-occupancy restrooms (rooms with a toilet and/or urinal and sink) as all gender toilet facilities. Additionally, the bill would authorize health officers or inspectors to check for compliance with these provisions during any health inspection.

When transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals access public accommodations such as restrooms, they may experience competing and conflicting needs for privacy, personal safety, and gender affirmation. Children and young people whose gender may exist outside of the standard male-female binary may experience anxiety and social difficulty navigating these situations, especially in schools and other public places. Being forced to use a restroom that does not align with one's affirmed gender identity may be humiliating or unsafe for them and can have detrimental effects on their self-esteem and mental health. Studies have shown that various negative health outcomes, including significantly higher rates of mental illness, substance abuse, and comorbid medical conditions are related to the social stigma experienced by many transgender and gender-nonconforming people. At the same time, studies also show that a gender-affirming approach toward transgender individuals is protective against these negative outcomes. As pediatricians, we recognize that physical safety, mental health, and self-esteem are key components of safe schools and other public environments that children and young people access every day. We endorse the creation of all-gender restrooms in public places in order to support and more comfortably accommodate all members of our community.

The AAP strongly encourages pediatricians to “support or create gay-straight alliances” for LGBTQ teens. (Text from AAP Policy Statement on Office-Based Care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth, 2015) AB 1732 would help reduce psychological and physical distress suffered by sexual minority youths by creating inclusive restroom facilities for gender non-conforming youths.

California pediatricians support AB 1732, 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,

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Leslie Chiang, MD
Senior Policy Analyst
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a vertical stroke on the left that loops into a horizontal line with a slight hump in the middle, extending to the right.

Paula Whiteman, MD
Governing Board Member
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA