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July 25, 2016

The Honorable Sebastian Ridley-Thomas  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Suite 2176  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0054

**Re: AB 2018 (Ridley-Thomas) Mandated Child Abuse Reporting Employee Training Act of 2016**  
**AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas:

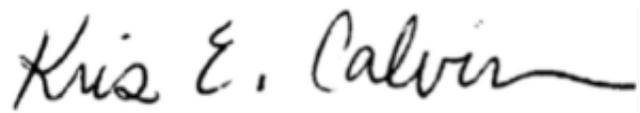
The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing 5,000 primary care and subspecialty pediatricians statewide, is proud to support your proposed legislation AB 2018 (Ridley-Thomas). AB 2018 would require each community college district to annually train employees who are mandated reporters on mandated reporting requirements, develop a process for providing proof of completion, and identify enrollees who are minors exclusively to mandatory reporters.

It has been estimated that a child in California is abused every seven minutes. Abuse and neglect have long-lasting effects on an individual's psychosocial development and health. Forty categories of mandatory reporters play a crucial role in identifying child abuse and neglect through recognizing important signs and reporting concerns to law enforcement. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) championed the federal Protect Our Kids Act of 2012 that established the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities and welcomed its report with recommendations that include increasing funding for mandatory reporter training to prevent child fatalities and to protect those especially vulnerable to harm.

AB 2018 (Ridley-Thomas) is an important recognition of the presence of over 73,000 minors in our community college classrooms and would ensure that those faculty members receive the same training in detecting and reporting child abuse as their K-12 counterparts.

California pediatricians are proud to support your proposed legislation AB 2018. We thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families across California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin" with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish at the end.

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