



February 24, 2017

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Fax: (916) 319-2113

RE: AB 223 (Eggman): Commercial sexual exploitation of youth: services
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember 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 223 (Eggman). AB 223 would require the creation of pilot projects in Alameda, Sacramento, and San Joaquin Counties to provide services relating to commercial sexual exploitation of youth, such as assessing physical and emotional health of trafficking victims, trauma-informed counseling, and peer mentoring programs, among others.

Human trafficking is among the most pressing human rights issues facing California today. Human trafficking has been estimated to be a \$32 billion per year global industry, and as of 2012, California was one of the nation's top four destination states for human trafficking. Of special concern to pediatricians are the many children, often those already living in extremely challenging circumstances, who fall victim to traffickers. This often leads to grave physical and emotional harm, with lifelong implications for the child—especially if the child receives insufficient physical or mental health care after his or her escape from a life of exploitation.

AB 223 (Eggman) would help these children get their lives back after surviving some of the most challenging circumstances imaginable. Pilot programs would benefit child trafficking victims in three counties, while potentially serving as a model for the rest of the state and the country for how to effectively rehabilitate children who have lived through extreme trauma—thus demonstrating our commitment to the well-being of our state's most vulnerable children.

Pediatricians across the state support AB 223 (Eggman). We thank you for your leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne