



June 19, 2018

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Public Safety
State Capitol, Room 2031
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2382 (Gipson) Firearms: firearm precursor parts
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Skinner,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports proposed legislation AB 2382 (Gipson), which creates bans and background checks for firearm parts used to build “ghost guns” similar to the bans and background checks already governing gun sales and ammunition.

The Centers for Disease Control report found that in 2016, 4,927 children and youth age birth to 21 years, died from firearm injuries, and another 21,764 were non-fatally injured. Firearm related homicide and suicide are second only to motor vehicle crashes as a leading cause of death among teens and young adults. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy states that to ensure the safety of children, “pediatricians should continue to advocate for the strongest possible legislative and regulatory approaches to prevent firearm injuries and deaths.”

Currently, the sale of a fully automatic AK-47 is illegal in California and most other guns bought in store require a background check to purchase. However, building a California compliant version of AK-47 at home by purchasing separate parts is not illegal and can be made at home using non-serialized parts which cannot be tracked by law enforcement, referred to as “ghost guns”. Further, someone banned from purchasing a gun or ammunition can circumvent current law by purchasing precursor parts and building their own.

AB 2382 (Gipson) seeks to prevent firearm injuries by requiring a state background check for individuals seeking to purchase firearm precursor parts and requiring the sale of firearm precursor parts to be conducted by a licensed firearm precursor parts vendor, defining firearm precursor parts to include but not limited to a firearm barrel, an ammunition feeding device, a magazine or speedloader, an unfinished receiver including tubes, casting and flats, a finished upper receiver, unfinished handgun frame, a finished slide, and a trigger pack or fire control group.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly support proposed legislation AB 2382 (Gipson) and urge you to vote AYE. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Jean Junior, M.D., MPhil
Resident Representative Member, AAP-CA State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Members of Senate Public Safety Committee
The Honorable Mike Gipson, Author
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne