



March 30, 2018

Assemblymember Matthew Harper
State Capitol, Suite #3098
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2390 (Harper) Pupil safety: identification cards: suicide prevention telephone numbers
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assemblymember Harper,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports AB 2390 (Harper), which would require a public high school that issues pupil identification cards to include on the back of the pupil identification cards the telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, and the school's campus police or security telephone number or, if the school does not have a campus police or security telephone number, the local non-emergency telephone number.

The American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Adolescence reports that suicide is the second leading cause of death for adolescents 15 to 19 years old and it affects young people from all races and socioeconomic groups. The 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of students in grades 9 through 12 in the United States indicated that during the 12 months before the survey, 39.1% of girls and 20.8% of boys felt sad or hopeless almost every day for at least 2 weeks in a row, 16.9% of girls and 10.3% of boys had planned a suicide attempt, 10.6% of girls and 5.4% of boys had attempted suicide, and 3.6% of girls and 1.8% of boys had made a suicide attempt that required medical attention

AB 2390 (Harper) would offer a source of readily available information to students (for themselves and to share with friends about whom they are concerned), by requiring public high schools to provide easily accessible suicide prevention telephone hotline number on student's identification cards as a resource to those potentially seeking life-saving help.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state 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 cursive script that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne