



March 26, 2018

The Honorable Jose Medina
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2391 (Harper) Student health: identification cards: suicide prevention telephone numbers
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Medina,

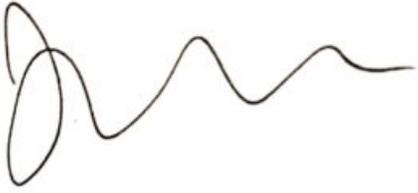
The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports AB 2391 (Harper), which would require the California Community Colleges and the California State University campuses that issues student identification cards, and would request the University of California that issues student identification cards to, include on the back of those cards the telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, and the campus police or security telephone number or, if the campus 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 2391 (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 California Community Colleges, State Universities and request University campuses to provide easily accessible suicide prevention telephone hotline number on student's identification cards as a resource to those potentially seeking life-saving help.

Pediatricians members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state urge you to vote AYE on AB 2391 (Harper). Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Jayne Congdon, M.D., M.S.

Resident Representative Member, AAP-CA State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Assembly Higher Education Committee Members

Office of Honorable Matthew Harper, California State Assembly (Author)

AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne