



February 27, 2017

The Honorable Cristina Garcia
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0058
Fax: (916) 319-2158

RE: AB 247 (C. Garcia): Lead Advisory Taskforce
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Cristina Garcia:

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 247 (C. Garcia). This bill would require the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to convene a Lead Advisory Taskforce to review and advise regarding policies and procedures to reduce childhood lead poisoning in the state, and would also require that the taskforce publish a recommended regulatory agenda that identifies sources of lead and ensures that regulatory standards are protective of Californian's health.

Lead exposure is a serious health hazard, especially for children. Exposure to lead can lead to brain and nervous system damage, delayed growth and development, learning and behavioral issues, and hearing and speech problems. The LA Times reports that in 2010, over 20,000 California children tested positive for elevated levels of lead in their blood, but even lower levels of lead have been shown to be harmful; indeed, there is no known safe level of lead ingestion. We must do everything we can to combat this major public health problem.

AB 247 (C. Garcia) would mark an important first step towards a systematic approach to lead poisoning reduction in California. By establishing a taskforce to review current policies and procedures and make recommendations regarding a regulatory agenda, AB 247 (C. Garcia) would stand to benefit thousands of California children who today are at risk of lead poisoning.

Pediatricians across the state support AB 247 (C. Garcia). 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, appearing to read 'Nancy Graff'.

Nancy Graff, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
State Government Affairs Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Kris Calvin, CEO; AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne