



March 26, 2018

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ?AB 2860 (Travis Allen) Firearms: unsafe handguns
AAP-CA Position: Oppose

Dear Chair Jones-Sawyer,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly opposes AB 2733 (Harper), which would repeal the current laws that makes it an offense to manufacture or sell a handgun that is not safe, establishes criteria for determining if a handgun is unsafe, requires manufacturers to submit samples of new handgun models for testing to determine if they are unsafe or may be approved for sale, and requires the Department of Justice to compile a roster listing all of the handguns that have been tested and determined not to be unsafe.

An unsafe handgun is any handgun that lacks an appropriate safety, that does not meet the state's firing requirement, or that does not meet the state's drop safety requirement. The California Department of Justice publishes and maintains a roster listing all handguns that have been tested by a certified testing laboratory, determined not to be unsafe handguns, and that may be sold in California. An "unsafe handgun" also includes: any centerfire semiautomatic pistol that is not already listed on the roster as of January 1, 2006, and does not have either a chamber load indicator, or a magazine disconnect mechanism; any rimfire semiautomatic pistol that does not have a magazine disconnect mechanism, if it has a detachable magazine; and any centerfire semiautomatic pistol that does not have both a chamber load indicator or, if it has a detachable magazine, a magazine disconnect mechanism.¹

It is imperative that we do all within our power to reduce gun violence. Dr. Colleen Kraft, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics states, "We can start by working to advance meaningful legislation that keeps children safe. The American Academy of Pediatrics advocates for stronger state and federal gun laws that protect children..."

AB 2860 (Allen) would do just the opposite, by repealing current laws that increase firearm manufacturer and regulation safety in order to protect all Californians, including children.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state urge you to vote NAY on AB 2860 (Allen). 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 black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a final horizontal stroke, positioned above the typed name.

Melissa J. Ruiz, M.D., M.P.H., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Early Career Physician Representative, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Assembly Public Safety Committee Members
Office of Honorable Travis Allen, California State Assembly (Author)
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne

1 <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/design-safety-standards-for-handguns-in-california/>

2 https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2088.html