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March 23, 2015

Assemblymember Mullin  
State Capitol, Room 3160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**AB 45 (Mullin): Household Hazardous Waste**  
**AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Mullin,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California, representing the 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of all four California AAP regional chapters statewide (Ch 1 – Northern California, Ch 2 – Greater Los Angeles, Ch 3 – San Diego, and Ch 4 – Orange County), strongly supports your proposed legislation AB 45. This bill would establish curbside, door-to-door, and residential pickup programs as the principal means of collecting household hazardous waste and diverting it from California’s landfills and waterways.

In 2014, legislation was enacted to require the “diversion” of organics from landfills by requiring businesses that generate specified amounts of organic waste to handle organic waste in a manner to minimize traditional disposal. If “disposal” of organic waste has not been reduced by 50% in 2020 (using 2014 as a baseline), additional businesses are subject to the diversion program. The “AB 939 Diversion” program is heralded as an environmental and economic success. The law has conserved landfill capacity, created green jobs and businesses, reduced greenhouse gases, conserved natural resources, and contributed to the fight against climate change. As much as any law enacted in California, AB 939 has contributed to the modern environmental ethic of stewardship.

AB 45 borrows from the demonstrably successful “diversion” laws and programs described above and requires local jurisdictions to “divert” a yet to be determined percentage of HHW from landfills by 2020. Local jurisdictions that deploy convenient residential collection programs will be given more time to achieve the diversion objective.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California’s mission is to promote the health and well-being of all children living in California. Pediatricians applaud your strong leadership on behalf of all families and children living in California, and we strongly support AB 45.

Kris Calvin  
Chief Executive Officer

