



August 31, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 470 (Chu) Public health: pools: drownings
AAP-CA Position: Neutral

Dear Governor Brown:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing 5,000 California pediatricians strongly supports AB 470 (Chu). This bill would update and strengthen California's Swimming Pool Safety Act, in order to better safeguard the lives and safety of California children.

Despite existing regulation, residential swimming pools continue to be the leading cause of death for California children ages 1-4. Furthermore, "near-drowning" victims, who survive a drowning situation but often suffer lifelong disability and brain damage as a consequence, make up the largest group of people provided treatment through the California Department of Developmental Services. This represents not only a financial burden on the state, but – far more importantly – lifetimes of suffering imposed on children and their families.

AB 470 would help to remedy this situation by taking simple, common-sense steps to strengthen the Swimming Pool Safety Act: ensuring that every new pool constructed be equipped with two, rather than just one, of seven specified safety measures; that in every house listed for sale with a pool or spa, a noninvasive physical inspection be carried out to determine which of these safety features is present; and that these standards be applied uniformly across the state.

Pediatricians, therefore, respectfully urge you to sign AB 470 and thank you for your public service and 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 "Kate Roberts".

Kate Roberts, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Senior Policy Analyst

American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Stuart Cohen, AAP-CA Chair; Lydia Bourne, AAP-CA Legislative Advocate; AAP-CA Leadership