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September 28, 2017

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
California State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 569 (Gonzalez Fletcher): Discrimination: Reproductive Health  
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports the proposed legislation AB 569 (Gonzalez Fletcher). This bill would prohibit workplace discrimination based on an employee's reproductive decisions.

American Academy of Pediatrics policy strongly supports adolescents' access to safe and confidential reproductive healthcare, including access to effective contraception, abortion services, and the comprehensive health and sexuality education that is necessary for adolescents to make fully informed decisions. These decisions are personal and should be made by the person in question; under no circumstances should an employer step in to dictate an employee's reproductive health choices, whether these choices relate to the timing of a pregnancy, the termination of a pregnancy, the methods used to conceive, or marital status.

Under current law, there are few protections for discrimination based on reproductive health decisions. Many Californians — and especially California women — are thus at risk of job-based discrimination on the basis of their private choices, and even termination of employment. This could leave children to be born into poverty or economic insecurity, a major risk factor strongly associated with myriad negative health outcomes.

AB 569 (Gonzalez Fletcher) would improve the security of California families by prohibiting workplace discrimination based on an employee's reproductive decisions. This is a critically important to any Californian who has felt pressure from an employer to live their personal life in a certain way, and to any child born into a family that might be affected by this discrimination.

California pediatricians respectfully request that you sign AB 569 (Gonzalez Fletcher) into law. We 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 large, stylized cursive mark followed by the letters "MD".

Yasuko Fukuda, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Vice Chair, District IX of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Executive Board, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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