



March 22, 2017

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080
Fax: (916) 319-2180

AB 569 (Gonzalez Fletcher): Discrimination: reproductive health
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing the 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of all four California AAP regional chapters statewide, strongly supports your 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. However, 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, thus helping to assure that these decisions will be made personally and not in consultation with an employer. This would be a boon 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 strongly support AB 569 (Gonzalez Fletcher). We thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

 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