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March 29, 2017

The Honorable Jim Wood  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002  
Fax: (916) 319-2102

RE: AB 62 (Wood): Public housing: smoke-free policy  
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, to let you know that we strongly support your proposed legislation AB 62 (Wood). This bill would require all public housing agencies to prohibit the smoking of tobacco products in all public housing living units, interior areas, and outdoor areas within 25 feet of public housing and administrative buildings, except in designated smoking areas, by July 30, 2018.

As noted in AAP policy, “Tobacco use and tobacco smoke exposure are among the most important health threats to children, adolescents, and adults. There is no safe level of tobacco smoke exposure. The developing brains of children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable to the development of tobacco and nicotine dependence.” It is essential that we protect the health of our state’s children by limiting their exposure to secondhand smoke as much as possible. Additionally, we must do everything we can to protect children from the threat of house fires caused by tobacco smoking. In 2011, an estimated 490 deaths were caused by cigarette-ignited home fires, and approximately a quarter of these deaths were not of the smoker themselves.

AB 62 (Wood) would help protect the health and safety of all residents of California public housing buildings, and especially of children, by limiting smoking to designated smoking areas. This would conform to the AAP policy recommendation, “Regulations prohibiting smoking in multi-unit housing should be adopted by state and local governments [... as smoking] in one unit involuntarily exposes those in nearby units.” Thousands of California public housing residents would benefit as a result.

Pediatricians across the state support AB 62 (Wood). We thank you for your 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 "nancy graff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Graff, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
State Government Affairs Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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