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June 13, 2018

The Honorable Richard Pan  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2191  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1801 (Nazarian) –Newborns: cytomegalovirus public education and testing**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Chair Pan,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians statewide, supports proposed legislation AB 1801 (Nazarian), which would require the State Department of Health Care Services to establish a commission on Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Public Education and Testing, appointing members to the commission including a general pediatrician who practices primary care, that examine research and data relating to congenital CMV.

In the US, nearly 1 in 3 children are already infected with CMV by age 5 years. It is spread through exposure to body fluids and can cause serious health problems for infants who acquire the infection during pregnancy congenitally from their mothers. 13,500 to 31,500 infants are born each year in this country with congenital CMV infection and both symptomatic and asymptomatic infants may develop health problems later on in life, the most common of which is hearing loss – approximately 20% of all hearing loss at birth and 25% of hearing loss at 4 years of age is attributable to congenital CMV infection.

California pediatricians agree that more needs to be done to identify and monitor infants infected with cytomegalovirus (CMV) who have acquired the infection during pregnancy congenitally from their mothers. AB 1801 (Nazarian) establishes a commission to approach the need to strengthen CMV identification, monitoring and care, while adhering to evidence-based practices.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state urge you to vote AYE on AB 1801 (Nazarian). 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, appearing to read 'M. Patel', written in a cursive style.

Mona Patel, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Co-chair of State Government Affairs, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Kris Calvin, AAPCA CEO; AAPCA Leadership; Lydia Bourne, AAPCA Lobbyist