



January 26, 2017

The Honorable Ted Gaines
State Capitol, Room 3070
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4901

RE: SCR 15 (Gaines): Human Trafficking Awareness Month
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Gaines:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports your proposed resolution SCR 15 (Gaines). SCR 15 would declare January 2017 to be Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and would encourage the month to be commemorated with appropriate activities.

Human trafficking is among the most pressing human rights issues facing California today. Human trafficking has been estimated to be a \$32 billion per year global industry, and as of 2012, California was one of the nation's top four destination states for human trafficking. Of special concern to pediatricians are the many children, often those already living in vulnerable circumstances, who fall victim to traffickers. This often leads to grave physical and emotional harm with lifelong implications for the child. Despite the severity of the crime, however, human trafficking is highly underreported. This is in part because of a lack of awareness among the public about the realities of human trafficking in California, which leaves people blind to the warning signs of human trafficking.

SCR 15 (Gaines) would help to remedy this situation by declaring Human Trafficking Awareness Month, thus encouraging all Californians to learn more about human trafficking and how to prevent and report it. Its enactment would represent a step towards reducing the toll that human trafficking takes in California.

Pediatricians strongly support SCR 15 (Gaines). We thank you for your public service and for your leadership on behalf of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

Kris Calvin

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Chief Executive Officer

American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne