



June 4, 2018

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1100 (Portantino) Firearms: Transfers
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Portantino,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians statewide, strongly supports proposed legislation SB 1100 (Portantino), to extend the prohibition on purchasing more than one handgun a month to include all firearms and to increase the age from 18 to 21 years for a person to purchase a firearm of additional, specified types from a licensed dealer.

SB 1100 seeks to apply the standards currently applied to handguns to all firearms to increase public safety and the safety of our children.

Most firearm-related injuries and deaths of children and adolescents involve a handgun, but long guns are involved in a large number of unintentional injuries and suicides, especially in rural areas. The AR-15, a long gun, has been used in several devastating mass shootings, including the recent one at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. While handguns once made up the larger share of crime guns, that trend has started to shift to include more long guns. Medical care associated with firearm injuries of children also carries a significant financial toll, an estimated \$28000 per patient for the initial injury.¹

Current state legislation prohibits the sale of handguns to any person below the age of 21 years and applies a limit of one application to purchase a handgun per 30 days. These laws have reduced the incidence of gun trafficking and have not burdened legitimate gun owners or persons who wish to buy guns. A similar law in Virginia significantly reduced the number of crime guns traced to Virginia dealers. However these beneficial restrictions do not apply to other types of no less deadly firearms including rifles, shotguns or assault rifles.

This current narrow firearm restriction misses a valuable opportunity to protect the children of California.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly support your proposed legislation SB 1100. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

Kris E. Calvin

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne; James A. Hall, MD, Senior Policy Analyst

1 Gunshot Injuries in Children Served by Emergency Services