



---

April 2, 2018

Honorable Scott Wiener  
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1158 (McGuire): Specialized license plates: “Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help Our Kids” license plate program**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Chair Wiener:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports proposed legislation SB 1158 (McGuire), which would modify the “Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help our Kids” license plate program so as to increase the amount of funds available, while also directing additional funds to child care licensee primary care and safety training program support, child abuse prevention, and other child health and safety concerns.

Child abuse is an epidemic problem in the United States, where child abuse is reported made every ten seconds—and countless other cases go unreported. Abuse has severe, long-term implications for the health and well-being of any child, with the life expectancy of children reporting six or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)—such as physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, substance abuse in the household, and others—an average of two decades shorter than their peers who reported none. Given these horrifying statistics, we must do everything we can not only to support victims of abuse, but also to prevent abuse before it happens.

SB 1158 (McGuire) would direct more funds towards abuse prevention and other child safety programs, thus reducing the number of children who have to bear the consequences of abuse for the rest of their lifetimes. It would also contribute towards additional training for child care licensees, so that these licensees could care for children to the best of their ability, while also making available more funds for other important child health and safety concerns.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state strongly support proposed legislation SB 1158 (McGuire). Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Honorable Mike McGuire, author  
Members of the Senate Human Services Committee  
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne