



March 13, 2017

The Honorable Jerry Hill
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4913

RE: SB 22 (Hill): Law Enforcement Firearms
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Hill:

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 SB 22 (Hill). SB 22 (Hill) would require law enforcement agencies to adopt written procedures to account for firearms that are owned, acquired, maintained, sold, loaned, lost, stolen or possessed by the agency or by an employee of that agency if carried for official employment duties. It would also require that the acquisition of firearms for official use be logged into the Automated Firearms System, as well as the loss, theft, or disposal of such firearms.

Gun violence is among the greatest public health crises facing California children and youth. As of 2012, adolescents between 15 and 24 years of age were the most likely group to suffer a firearm-related death in the state of California. As such, it is imperative that we do all within our power to make sure that firearms are kept out of the hands of those that would use them to do our state's children harm, including registering and tracking legally owned and licensed firearms. Unfortunately, California law currently requires no such tracking system for firearms owned by law enforcement agencies. This in turn makes it even more difficult to investigate gun-related crimes, as false leads may result from the use of unreported lost or stolen firearms.

SB 22 (Hill) would remedy this lack by instituting a comprehensive tracking system for law enforcement fire arms, which would help to ensure that firearms meant to preserve public safety do not inadvertently end up in the wrong hands. This stands to benefit the many children and youth across California who are at risk of falling victim to gun violence every day.

Pediatricians across the state support SB 22 (Hill). 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, consisting of a stylized, cursive name followed by the letters "MD".

Yasuko Fukuda, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Vice Chair, District IX of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Executive Board, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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