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March 27, 2017

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino  
State Capitol, Room 3086  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4925

RE: SB 23 (Portantino): Public health: umbilical cord blood collection  
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 23 (Portantino). This bill would extend the operation of the University of California Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program and would raise birth certificate fees by \$1 to sustain its existence.

The Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program is an important source of umbilical cord blood in the state of California. Traditionally discarded as medical waste, cord blood is rich in stem cells and is important for the treatment of blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma. The Collection Program enables mothers to voluntarily donate their newborn's umbilical cord blood for medical and research purposes through a quick and painless donation procedure. However, under current law, the program sunsets in 2018, potentially ending the operations of an important and innovative program that saves lives.

SB 23 (Portantino) would assure that the program continues in operation for another eight years, thus directly benefiting Californians with blood cancers who require cord blood treatment, and making a difference in the lives of the many thousands of Californians who may one day benefit from treatments discovered through stem cell research.

Pediatricians strongly support SB 23 (Portantino). We thank you for your public service and 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, appearing to be the name of a representative of the American Academy of Pediatrics, California.

Jacques Corriveau, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Chair, State Government Affairs Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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