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January 29, 2018

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

RE: SB 459 (Portantino): Firearms: dealer inspections  
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Portantino:

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 459 (Portantino). This bill would require the Department of Justice to conduct inspections of dealers at least every three years, with the exception of a dealer whose place of business is located in a jurisdiction that has adopted an inspection program.

Gun violence is among the greatest public health crises facing California children and youth. Data show that adolescents between 15 and 24 years of age are the most likely group to suffer a firearm-related death in the state of California. It is imperative that we do all within our power to ensure that firearm dealers follow licensing requirements, as well as the requirements regarding the sale and transfer of firearms. Under current California law, there is no time frame established for when The Department of Justice needs to inspect firearms dealer businesses. Adopting a timeframe of at least every three years will increase the ability to ensure compliance with all firearm laws.

SB 459 (Portantino) would allow for greater control of firearm sales, helping to ensure that firearms 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 459 (Portantino). 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, appearing to be "Suzanne", written in a cursive style.

Susan Wu, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
State Government Affairs Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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