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March 13, 2017

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

RE: SB 464 (Hill): Firearms dealers: storage and security  
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Hill:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 464 (Hill). This bill would require that firearms dealers store all firearms in a secure facility on their business's premises, and additionally that the firearms be secured either via a steel rod or cable or in a locked, fireproof safe or vault that meets the Attorney General's specifications. It also requires that, should the former method be used, concrete or hardened steel pillars of sufficient strength to stop a car be installed along the front of the store and at other critical access points.

AAP policy states that to ensure the safety of children, "pediatricians should continue to advocate for the strongest possible legislative and regulatory approaches to prevent firearm injuries and deaths." This includes preventing firearm theft, which funnels untracked and unregistered weapons into the black market. Under current law, firearms dealers must use only one of the three safety mechanisms listed above, but this has proven insufficient to deter determined firearms thieves. In 2016, hundreds of guns were stolen from dealers throughout northern California by criminals who used motor vehicles as battering rams to break into gun dealerships. In those dealerships where guns were left in their display cases overnight, the firearms were easily stolen.

SB 464 (Hill) would end these sorts of thefts and reduce the flow of guns into the black market by making it more difficult for thieves to break into gun dealerships and steal firearms. This stands to have a profound effect on the health and well-being of all California children who live in communities affected by gun violence.

Pediatricians strongly support SB 464 (Hill). 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 read 'Jacques Corriveau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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