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May 22, 2017

The Honorable Richard Pan  
State Capitol, Room 4070  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4906

RE: SB 536 (Pan): Firearm Violence Research Center: gun violence restraining orders.  
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 536 (Pan). This bill would give researchers at the Firearm Violence Research Center, and, at the discretion of the Department of Justice, any other nonprofit educational institution or public agency immediately concerned with the study and prevention of violence, access to specified information relating to gun violence restraining orders.

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 reduce and prevent firearm violence. This includes the effective study of gun violence, so that best practices to reduce it may be found. While the University of California's Firearm Violence Research Center has begun this research, they do not currently have access to critical information related to gun violence restraining orders, hampering their ability to study the effectiveness of the restraining orders in reducing violence.

SB 536 (Pan) would make sure that researchers have access to this critical data while also protecting the confidentiality of victims, thus helping prevent gun violence by enabling researchers to more effectively study the topic. This stands to improve the safety of children and youth across California threatened by gun violence.

Pediatricians strongly support SB 536 (Pan). We thank you for your public service and for your leadership on behalf of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Graff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" written in a more legible script and the last name "Graff" in a more stylized, looped cursive.

Nancy Graff, 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