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February 8, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara  
Senate Appropriations Committee Chair  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SB 54 (De León): Law enforcement: sharing data AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lara:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California, representing the 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of all four California AAP regional chapters statewide, strongly supports proposed legislation SB 54 (de León). This bill would prohibit state, local, and school law enforcement and security agencies from participating in the enforcement of any federal program that requires registration on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or national or ethnic origin, including immigration proceedings. It would also require public schools, hospitals and courthouses to limit immigration enforcement on their premises and would limit the gathering and sharing of non-essential information by state agencies.

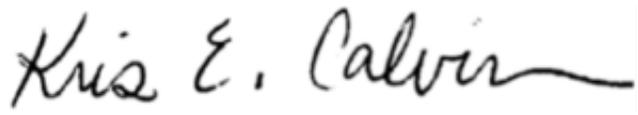
It is our strongly held belief that all children should be afforded the right to attend school, visit a doctor's office, or approach a police officer for help without fearing for their safety. Parents should be able to attend school events and parent-teacher conferences, seek medical care, and request police assistance for themselves and their children without concern that their families will be torn apart as a result. Subjecting California families to programs and policies that threaten these central functions of parenting could pose innumerable, grave consequences to the social, psychological, and physical well-being of children.

SB 54 (de León) would dramatically advance the health of California children by assuring that no child or parent need fear detention, separation, or deportation as a result of seeking an education or medical care. It would help to reduce the toxic burden of fear that many children across our state live with every day, in a time when that fear has grown substantially more severe. And it would affirm our commitment to doing right by each and every child in our diverse communities, no matter who they are or the circumstances that brought them here.

Pediatricians across the state urge an AYE vote on SB 54 (de León). We thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

Kris Calvin

Handwritten signature of Kris E. Calvin in black ink.

Chief Executive Officer  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne