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April 17, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4933

SB 563 (Lara): Residential wood smoke AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lara:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing the 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of all four California AAP regional chapters statewide, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 563 (Lara). This bill would establish the Woodsmoke Reduction Program, with the purpose of replacing old wood-burning stoves with cleaner and more efficient alternatives so as to achieve climate and public health benefits.

Particle pollution is highly hazardous to children, who are even more sensitive than adults to the effects of airborne contaminants. Children with health conditions such as asthma are at special risk of negative health consequences due to particle pollution; and in many areas of the state, wood smoke represents one of the greatest contributors to airborne particle pollution during the winter burning season. Other methods of heating, such as heat pumps, natural gas heaters, non-wood-based fireplaces, and other devices, produce far less pollution and are more effective at heating, but many homeowners continue to use wood burning as a primary or auxiliary source of heat.

SB 563 (Lara) would improve the breathability of California air while reducing the negative health consequences of airborne pollution for all Californians. California's children, and especially those with asthma and other special health conditions, would greatly benefit as a result.

California pediatricians strongly support SB 563 (Lara). We thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Tanilil".

Lauren Gambill, 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