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August 29, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 869 (Hill) Firearms: securing handguns in vehicles**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Governor Brown:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing 5,000 California pediatricians strongly supports SB 869 (Hill). SB 869 would require a person, when leaving a handgun in a vehicle, to secure the handgun by locking it in the trunk of the vehicle or locking it in a locked container and placing the container out of plain view. The bill would make a violation of these requirements an infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

As pediatricians, our primary concern is for the health and safety of our patients. In *Firearm-related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population (2012)*, the AAP affirms that the most effective measure to prevent suicide, homicide, and unintentional firearm-related injuries to children and adolescents is the absence of guns from homes and communities. The AAP has supported safe storage laws in homes, and this bill is a natural extension of that policy. State laws that prevent access and institute penalties for improperly stored firearms have been associated with reductions in children's unintentional shooting deaths.

This bill directly aligns with our goals to protect a child's safety and well-being. Pediatricians, therefore, respectfully urge you to sign SB 869 and thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sabo  
Legislative Coordinator  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Stuart Cohen, AAP-CA Chair; Lydia Bourne, AAP-CA Legislative Advocate; AAP-CA Leadership