



June 20, 2018

The Honorable Toni G. Atkins
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 970 (Atkins) Employment: Human Trafficking Awareness
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Atkins,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 970 to require all California hotels and motels to provide training on recognizing the signs of human trafficking to their employees.

Child trafficking is a growing public health problem internationally with California being one of the top four destinations for traffickers. Trafficking negatively impacts children's physical and emotional health and is a violation of basic human rights.¹ Despite the increase in trafficking all around us, many do not recognize the signs of trafficking, allowing it to happen all around us.

Most trafficking happens in hotels and motels. Leaders in the hotel industry such as Wyndham and Marriott have already begun training programs for their employees to help them recognize possible trafficking and to inform them on how to report these issues to the proper authorities. Several non-profit agencies provide free training materials. Yet not all California hotel and motel employees get this training that could protect children and save lives.

SB 970 would make sure that all California hotel and motel employees receive training on how to recognize and report signs of human trafficking and would help stop the victimization of children in our state.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly support your proposed legislation SB 970. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marsha A. Sprague".

Marsha Spitzer, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Executive Board Member, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne

1 <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/140/6/e20173138>