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August 22, 2016

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

**RE: SB 977 (Pan) Tobacco: youth sports events**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Governor Brown:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing nearly 5,000 primary care and subspecialty pediatricians statewide, is proud to support SB 977 (Pan). SB 977 would prohibit the use of products containing tobacco and nicotine within 250 feet of any youth sporting event.

The American Academy of Pediatrics' *Statement on Tobacco Use: A Pediatric Disease* provides the following overview of the extremely dangerous, harmful and costly effects of tobacco use:

“Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death and illness in the United States, causing more than 443000 deaths each year. The consequences of tobacco use include harms to the health of the fetus, such as low birth weight and sudden infant death; harms to children from tobacco use and secondhand tobacco-smoke (SHS) exposure, including respiratory illness, infection, and decreased lung function; the uptake and establishment of tobacco use and nicotine addiction by the next generation; fires attributable to smoking; the economic costs of purchasing tobacco and tobacco-use materials; litter and debris from tobacco products; additional cleaning and maintenance of facilities in which tobacco is used; the health care and emotional costs of diseases associated with tobacco use and SHS exposure; and the costs to families and society because of poor health and lost productivity.”

Consistent with SB 977, National AAP policy recommends smoke-free environment ordinances and legislation for environments in which children learn, live, and play. These areas should be smoke-free even when children are not present. This bill represents an evidence-based, reasonable, and important step to protect and promote the health and well-being of children and the public health of our communities.

Pediatricians, therefore, respectfully urge you to sign SB 977 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin" with a long, sweeping horizontal line at the end.

Kris Calvin  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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