



---

February 16, 2017

The Honorable Connie Leyva  
State Capitol, Room 4061  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4920

RE: SCR 16 (Leyva): Teen Dating Violence and Prevention Month  
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Leyva:

I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, to let you know that we strongly support your proposed legislation SCR 16 (Leyva). This resolution would declare February 2017 to be Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and would encourage all Californians to raise awareness of teen dating violence through appropriate activities.

In any given year, nearly 1.5 million high school students across the country will experience some sort of physical or sexual abuse from a dating partner, and nearly 1 in 3 U.S. adolescents is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner. An adequate response to this public health crisis demands multiple interventions, but among the most important is the most basic: making sure people know that the problem exists. Too often, people ignore the troubling signs of abuse in teen relationships because they assume that teen relationships are simply “young love,” and don’t consider what could be going on beneath the surface.

SCR 16 (Leyva) would represent an important first step in the fight against teen dating violence. By helping to raise awareness of the problem, SCR 16 (Leyva) lays the groundwork for the solution to the problem, which we hope California legislators will take further strong action to enact.

Pediatricians across the state support SCR 16 (Leyva). We thank you for your leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

Zoey Goore, M.D., M.P.H., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Executive Board Member, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Kris Calvin, CEO; AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne