



June 3, 2019

Senator Scott Wiener  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 142 (Wiener): Employees: lactation accommodation.**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Wiener:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 142 requiring businesses to provide lactation facilities for their workers, to include lactation facilities in new construction, and to give employees information about their rights to a safe and comfortable lactation space at work.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that breastfeeding be continued until an infant is at least one year of age, based on strong evidence that shows improved health outcomes for breastfed babies. However, breastfeeding parents who work outside the home usually do not have the luxury of taking a year off of work, and must return to their workplace long before it is recommended to cease breastfeeding. A study from the US Department of Health and Human Services found that infants who were exclusively breastfed for 4-6 months were four times more likely than infants exclusively breastfed for longer than 6 months to contract pneumonia. We must make all reasonable efforts to ensure that breastfeeding parents are accommodated in their places of work.

SB 142 would improve newborns' health by raising the standard of accommodations for employees breastfeeding in the workplace. This would also potentially benefit employers. As noted in AAP policy, "The return on investment has been calculated that for every \$1 invested in creating and supporting a lactation support program... there is a \$2 to \$3 return" related to reduced company health care costs, absenteeism and turnover, and increased morale and productivity ("Breastfeeding and the Use of Human Milk," *Pediatrics*, March 2012).

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support your proposed legislation SB 142.

Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of the children, youth, and families of California.

Sincerely,

Kris Calvin  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne