



March 5, 2019

Senator Henry Stern, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 8 (Glazer) State parks: state coastal beaches: smoking ban
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Stern:

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 proposed legislation SB 8 (Glazer) seeking to prohibit smoking on all state parks and beaches.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure. This includes encounters in outdoor areas. In 2006, the California Air Resources Board also classified secondhand smoke as a “Toxic Air Contaminant” in the same category as asbestos, cyanide, and arsenic – all of which can lead to serious illness and death. Exposure can be especially harmful to vulnerable populations, such as those with asthma, pregnant women, and those with chronic illnesses. Secondhand smoke exposure can even cause asthma in children who previously showed no symptoms.

State law currently restricts smoking within 25 feet of a playground or tot lot sandbox area. As of January 1, 2019, a total of 392 cities and counties have adopted local policies restricting smoking in locally controlled recreation areas, ensuring their residents are not exposed to unwanted secondhand smoke when frequenting local parks and beaches. It is time for California to provide this same protection and prohibit smoking within our state parks and beaches.

SB 8 (Glazer) would make smoking on a state coastal beach or disposing of used cigar or cigarette waste on a state coastal beach an infraction punishable by a fine further protecting the public from the dangers of secondhand smoke exposure. Pediatricians across the state urge you to vote AYE on SB 8 (Glazer).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Patel".

Mona Patel, MD
Co-Chair State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: Kris Calvin; AAP-CA Leadership