



August 15, 2019

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE:AB 1030 (Calderon): Pelvic examinations: informational pamphlet, as amended August 13, 2019
AAP-CA Position: Oppose, unless amended

Dear Senator Portantino:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, respectfully opposes, unless amended proposed legislation AB 1030 (Calderon) requiring physicians to provide a pamphlet outlining what a patient may expect during a pelvic exam prior to the patient's first exam of this kind and to have the patient sign the pamphlet prior to the exam.

Pediatricians who provide primary care to adolescents often treat gynecologic issues. While most adolescents do not need an internal pelvic examination involving a speculum or bimanual examination, for those that do it is important that they be properly informed of what to expect. An informational pamphlet can be a valuable resource when explaining the components of an examination. However, requiring that the pamphlet be signed by the patient potentially creates a sense of heightened risk at odds with approaching the exam as a normal component of routine young women's health care as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/126/3/583.full>. This may be particularly true for a teen who has experienced sexual trauma; requiring that they sign may trigger a misplaced sense of responsibility for them for what comes next, and could cause them to decline care, rather than sign.

In contrast, a requirement that *the physician must note* that the patient received the pamphlet in their medical record would appropriately place accountability on the physician, rather than on the patient. We have requested, therefore, that Section 752 in the bill be amended as follows:

752. (a) Before a patients first pelvic examination, a licensee shall provide the patient the informational pamphlet developed pursuant to Section 751 and shall ~~obtain a signed acknowledgement of receipt from the patient, which shall be maintained~~ note as part of the patient's medical record *that the pamphlet was provided.*

We hope the author will accept this important amendment. However, at this time, with the bill as written, AAP-CA respectfully opposes and urges your NAY vote on AB 1030 (Calderon).

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