

August 14, 2019

Assembly Member Tom Lackey
State Capitol, Suite #2174
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 984 (Lackey): Personal income taxes: Suicide Prevention Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund as amended June 27, 2019
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Lackey:

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 AB 984 as amended on June 27, 2019 creating the Suicide Prevention Voluntary Contribution Fund.

Suicide is the third-leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-olds. The 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 9th-12th graders found that in the year before the survey, 1 in 5 boys and 2 in 5 girls had felt sad or hopeless almost every day for at least two weeks in a row, and 1 in 10 girls and 1 in 20 boys had attempted suicide. This represents a public health crisis that demands a concerted response.

AB 984 would increase the funds available for suicide prevention efforts by creating the Suicide Prevention Voluntary Contribution Fund, so that taxpayers may choose to contribute to a fund managed by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for the purposes of reducing suicide risk. Grants allocated by the fund would prioritize underserved rural areas and organizations.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support AB 984. 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