



March 19, 2019

The Honorable Laura Friedman
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0043

RE: AB 276 (Friedman): Firearms: storage
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Friedman:

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 276 criminalizing the failure of a firearm owner to lock up their firearms when they leave the residence.

Unlocked guns in homes increase the risk of both unintentional gun injuries and intentional shootings. Unintentional injuries continue to be the leading cause of death in children older than one year. Laws reducing child access to firearms, which primarily require safe gun storage, are associated with lower overall adolescent suicide rates.

The majority of guns stolen each year in the United States are taken from everyday owners. Homes where gun ownership rates are high are more likely to be broken into and unlocked guns are particularly vulnerable to theft. Those weapons flow into the black market and are often used in the commission of crimes.

AAP policy states that to ensure the safety of children, “pediatricians should continue to advocate for the strongest possible legislative and regulatory approaches to prevent firearm injuries and deaths.” This includes preventing firearm theft, which funnels untracked and unregistered weapons into the black market.

AB 276 would reduce these thefts and the subsequent flow of guns into the black market by making it more difficult for thieves to break into homes and steal firearms.

Pediatricians strongly support AB 276. We thank you for your public service and for your leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sharon Pham".

Sharon Pham, MD
Governing Board Member
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership