



February 19, 2019

The Honorable Phil Ting
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0019

RE: AB 61 (Ting) Gun violence restraining orders
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Ting,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports your proposed legislation AB 61 to enable an employer, a coworker, or an employee of a high school or college to request the courts to issue a gun violence restraining order from a person having in his/her custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm or ammunition.

Gun violence is among the greatest public health crises facing children and youth. Nearly 7,000 children younger than 18 are killed or wounded by gunshots each year. Firearm-related deaths are the third leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 17, outpaced only by death from car crashes and drownings and illnesses like cancer.

It is imperative that we do all within our power to reduce gun violence. Dr. Colleen Kraft, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics states, “We can start by working to advance meaningful legislation that keeps children safe. The American Academy of Pediatrics advocates for stronger state and federal gun laws that protect children.”

AB 61 would keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals by enabling employers, coworkers, or employees of a high school or college to request the court to issue a gun violence restraining order.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly support proposed legislation AB 61. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katherine Williamson, MD, FAIMM".

Katherine Williamson, MD
Member, Governing Board
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Kris Calvin; AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne; Committee on Public Safety