

April 2, 2019

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety  
State Capitol, Room 2031  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 545 (Hill): Driving under the influence: ignition interlock devices.**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Skinner:

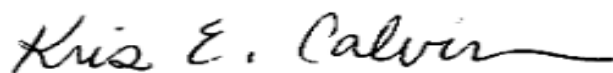
The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, strongly supports proposed legislation SB 545 (Hill), which would require those convicted of drunk driving to maintain an ignition interlock device (IID) that prevents their car from starting if they are above the permitted blood alcohol concentration.

Car accidents are a leading cause of death for children and young adults in the United States, and 1 in 5 of these deaths involve at least one drunk driver. Studies have shown that IIDs—which prevent a car from starting unless a Breathalyzer result demonstrates a blood alcohol concentration that permits safe driving—are highly successful at reducing drunk driving after a conviction. According to the Department of Motor Vehicles, drivers who had IIDs installed on their cars had 74 percent lower odds of a subsequent DUI incident relative to a comparison group of suspended drivers. However, under state law, IIDs are currently optional for those convicted of DUIs.

SB 545 (Hill) would help keep California children and families alive and well by requiring that all California drivers convicted of DUIs install an ignition interlock device in their cars. This would make our roads safer for all, and would save lives that would otherwise meet a senseless and premature end.

Pediatricians across the state of California urge an AYE vote on SB 545 (Hill). 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: The Honorable Jerry Hill; AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne