

April 23, 2019

AssemblyMember Freddie Rodriguez
Chair, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 153
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 33 (Bonta): State public retirement systems: divestiture from private prison companies
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear AssemblyMember Rodriguez:

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 AB 33 (Bonta) prohibiting the boards of the Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System from making new or renewing existing investments of public employee retirement funds in private for-profit prison companies.

Policies separating children from their families at the border have relied on for-profit prison companies to establish and maintain detention facilities. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has been a leading voice in strongly opposing this policy and its detrimental consequences for children's health. Pediatricians in California have also developed strong policy in opposition to such separations and detentions:

American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Statement on the Separation of Children from Their
Parents

Kris Calvin, CEO American Academy of Pediatrics, California

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members statewide of all four regional AAP California Chapters 1,2,3 and 4 stands with the American Academy of Pediatrics and pediatricians everywhere to condemn the separation of children from their parents at the U.S. border. Children's health and well-being are adversely affected by these separations and the resulting institutional care. Harmful effects from the related toxic stress and trauma can last a lifetime. Every attempt should be made to keep families together and out of detention as they await hearings.

Tragically, many children remain detained and separated from their families. Further, there have been assertions at the federal level that these and similarly harmful "zero tolerance" policies might be restarted.

The California State Teachers' Retirement Board (CalSTRS) has already voted to divest from for-profit prison companies. Public agencies in other states such as New York, Illinois, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are also divesting from the industry. AB 33 (Bonta) would restrict California's public employee retirement fund from investing in for-profit prisons in protest to their profit-making off of this extremely harmful policy to vulnerable children and youth..

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support AB 33 (Bonta) and urge you to vote AYE.

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 officers
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

c: AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Senior Policy Analysts: Lisa Gantz MD, Kaitlyn Hardin MD and Nupur Agrawal MD