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July 22, 2020

Senator Anthony Portantino  
State Capitol, Room 3086  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 217 (Portantino) Recreational and Organizational Camps**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Portantino,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 217 or the Roxie's Rules Act as amended on June 23, 2020, which would require childrens' recreational camps to be licensed.

Thousands of California camps are not licensed or properly inspected. Currently, counties do not inspect camps or enforce oversight for background checks, emergency action plans or proper health and safety inspections, other than those inspections directly related to facilities which vary widely by county. Many of these camps offer high-risk activities including riflery, archery, fencing, zip lines, horseback riding, tomahawk throwing, steep rock climbing, and aquatics. Unlicensed camps have not been required to provide criminal background checks, emergency action plans, training and certifications resulting in tragedies such as the 2019 death of six-year-old Roxie Forbes after whom this act has been named.

Thirty-eight states have some sort of statewide camp regulations while California does not. SB 217 would establish standards and a licensing process for these camps correcting this omission in state law and bring camps in line with other regulated services such as daycare facilities to help keep California children safe.

Pediatricians across the state strongly support SB 217. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kris Calvin, CEO  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California