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May 11, 2020

Assembly Member Jim Wood, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Health  
Capitol Office, Room 6005  
P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

**RE: AB 2112 (Ramos) Youth Suicide Prevention**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Chair Wood,

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 AB 2112 (Ramos) as amended on March 16, 2020, to establish the Office of Suicide Prevention and make the office responsible for providing strategic guidance to statewide and regional partners regarding best practices on suicide prevention and reporting.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Adolescence reports that suicide is the second leading cause of death for adolescents 15 to 19 years old, affecting young people from all races and socioeconomic groups. The 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of students in grades 9 through 12 in the United States indicated that during the 12 months before the survey, 39.1% of girls and 20.8% of boys felt sad or hopeless almost every day for at least 2 weeks in a row, 16.9% of girls and 10.3% of boys had planned a suicide attempt, 10.6% of girls and 5.4% of boys had attempted suicide, and 3.6% of girls and 1.8% of boys had made a suicide attempt that required medical attention

AB 2112 (Ramos) would establish the Office of Suicide Prevention to collect data and use that data along with the insights of medical professionals, scientists, public health experts, and more to find opportunities to reduce suicide. By creating a centralized office of suicide prevention within California, we can work towards understanding maldistribution of mental health resources within our state and provide clear protocols on suicide intervention with easy access to region specific resources.

Pediatricians across the state urge you to vote AYE on AB 2112 (Ramos). 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 cursive script that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin, CEO  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California  
Cc: Senior Policy Analyst Aneela Reddy, MD