



**American Academy of Pediatrics, California**  
5000 Campus Drive Newport Beach, CA 92660  
**Phone** (626) 796-1632 | **Fax** (626) 628-3382  
**Email:** office@aap-ca.org | www.AAP-CA.org

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September 10, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 914 (Portantino) Firearms**  
**AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom,

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 SB 914 (Portantino) as amended August 25, 2020, which would require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to confirm the validity of hunting licenses used to establish eligibility for purchase of a firearm as a part of the background check for sales of firearms to persons under 21.

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. 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, including a ban on assault weapons like the one used in [Parkland, Florida] school shooting. We also call for stronger background checks, solutions addressing firearm trafficking, and encouraging safe firearm storage.”

Under existing law, a person must be 21 years of age to purchase a rifle or shotgun, unless they possess a valid hunting license issued by the Department of Fish and Game. SB 914 (Portantino) would require verification of the hunting license as part of the required background check before allowing a person under 21 to purchase a firearm.

Pediatricians across the state respectfully request your signature on SB 914 (Portantino). 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 that reads "Katherine Williamson, MD, FAAP".

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

cc: Kris Calvin, CEO AAP California