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August 17, 2020

Senator Henry Stern
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1320 (Stern): Climate change: California Climate Change Assessment
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Stern,

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 1320 (Stern) as amended on August 11, 2020. This bill would require the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop the California Climate Change Assessment, which would assess and report the impacts and risks of climate change and identify potential solutions to inform legislative policy.

The 2019 report of the Lancet Countdown on climate change and health states that “the life of every child born today will be profoundly affected by climate change, with populations around the world increasingly facing extremes of weather, food and water insecurity, changing patterns of infectious disease, and a less certain future.” The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Council on Environmental Health warns that “the social foundations of children’s mental and physical health are threatened by the specter of far-reaching effects of unchecked climate change, including community and global instability, mass migrations, and increased conflict.” The AAP-CA supports evidence-based action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

SB 1320 would direct the OPR to assess the impact of climate change on California and use that information to identify possible solutions.

Pediatricians across the state strongly support SB 1320. 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

Cc: AAP Leadership; Lydia Bourne