

April 1, 2019

Assemblymember Marc Levine
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849, Room 5135
Sacramento, CA 94249-0010

RE: AB 18 (Levine) Firearms: Excise Tax
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Levine:

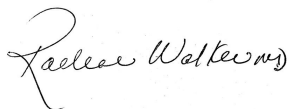
The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4, strongly supports your proposed legislation AB 18 imposing a statewide excise tax on the sales of handguns and semi-automatic rifles to increase funding to the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program (CalVIP).

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.

Reasonable strategies to prevent gun violence are critically needed now. The CalVIP Program was established in 2017 to provide funds for community-driven efforts to intervene and prevent violence, with preference given to applicants that propose programs shown to be the most effective at reducing violence. AB 18 would help fund this effective program through the imposition of a statewide excise tax on some of the very things that contribute to the violence in our communities.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support AB 18. 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,



Governing Board Member,
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership