

June 11, 2019

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol, Room 2083  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 521 (Berman): Physicians and surgeons: firearms: training, as amended May 30, 2019**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

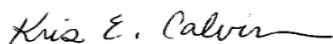
Dear Senator Leyva:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, strongly supports AB 521 (Berman), as amended May 30, 2019. This bill would, upon adoption of a resolution by the Regents of the University of California, require the University of California Firearm Violence Research Center to develop multifaceted education and training programs for medical and mental health providers on the prevention of firearm-related injury and death.

Gun violence has reached epidemic proportions in our society. All too often, pediatricians are tasked with caring for children and youth who have survived or witnessed gun violence, with the accompanying physical and/or mental trauma. Upon an enactment of a resolution by the University of California Regents, the University of California Firearm Violence Research Center would develop education and training programs to address the epidemiology of firearm-related injury and death; the role of health care providers in preventing firearm-related harm, including how to assess individual patients for risk of firearm-related injury and death; best practices for conversations about firearm ownership, access, and storage; appropriate tools for practitioner intervention with patients at risk for firearm-related injury or death; and relevant laws and policies related to prevention of firearm-related injury and death, and to the role of health care providers in preventing firearm-related harm. Development and dissemination of these materials would better equip California pediatricians and other health care providers to prevent gun violence injury, save lives and address the trauma experienced by those affected by that violence at the individual, family and community level.

According to *The American Academy of Pediatrics Gun Violence Policy Recommendations (2013)*, “Physician counseling of parents about firearm safety has been demonstrated to be an effective prevention measure. The AAP supports the education of physicians and other professionals interested in understanding the effects of firearms and how to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with their use.” Pediatricians across California, therefore, respectfully urge an AYE vote on AB 521 (Berman). 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,



Kris Calvin  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: The Honorable Marc Berman; AAP-CA Leadership

*The American Academy of Pediatrics, California is the state-level advocacy organization of the four AAP California Chapters. Our mission is to promote the health and well-being of all children and youth in California and to support the professional needs of our California Chapter member pediatricians.*

*We are a 501(c)4 nonprofit legally incorporated in California.*