



March 15, 2019

Senator Jerry Hill  
State Capitol, Room 5035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 39 (Hill) Tobacco Products**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Hill:

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 SB 39 requiring sellers, distributors, and nonsale distributors to deliver tobacco products in conspicuously marked containers and to obtain the signature of a person 21 years of age or older before delivering a tobacco product.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), “tobacco use and tobacco smoke exposure are among the most important health threats to children, adolescents, and adults. There is no safe level of tobacco smoke exposure. The developing brains of children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable to the development of tobacco and nicotine dependence. Tobacco is unique among consumer products in that it causes disease and death when used exactly as intended. Tobacco continues to be heavily promoted to children and young adults.”

As tobacco dependence almost always starts in childhood, it is imperative that we take all appropriate actions to protect children from exposure and access to tobacco. One of the ways the AAP recommends approaching the problem is to increase the minimum age to purchase tobacco to 21 years.

SB 39 would help reduce access to tobacco for children and adolescents and help protect young people from establishing this deadly addiction and facing the potentially life-threatening cancer, cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions it can cause.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support SB 39. 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,

Melissa Ruiz, MD FAAP  
Governing Board Member  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

[1 https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/136/5/998](https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/136/5/998)