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March 26, 2020

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

**RE: SB 793 (Hill): Flavored Tobacco Products**  
**AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Hill:

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 your proposed legislation SB 793 as introduced on January 6, 2020. This bill would prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products including flavored electronic cigarettes.

Flavored cigarettes, except for menthol, are banned under Federal Law, but these rules do not apply to other tobacco products. Under SB 793, retail stores and vending machines in California would be prohibited from selling flavored tobacco products including flavored e-cigarettes, e-hookahs, e-pipes, and other vaping devices as well as all flavored smokable and non-smokable tobacco products, such as cigars, cigarillos, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, and tobacco edibles keeping our children safe no matter how flavored tobacco is marketed to them.

As of 2018, one out of every five high school students and one out of every twenty middle schoolers were using e-cigarettes. This marks a dramatic rise in the number of youths using e-cigarettes since 2011. The number of high school users increased by 78 percent from 2017 to 2018 alone. During this same period, there was a spike in overall tobacco usage by youth. AAP President Dr. Sally Goza, MD FAAP has stated "We are in the midst of a public health emergency. E-cigarettes risk addicting an entire generation of young people to nicotine. Pediatricians are reporting their teenage patients are putting e-cigarettes under their pillows so they can vape overnight and parents who frantically call our offices because their children can't stop using the products. E-cigarettes are incredibly addictive to young people and leaving any flavors on the market is dangerous for children's health."

According to a 2017 study, 80 percent of youth who have ever used a tobacco product used a flavored product first. Flavored e-cigarettes, cigars, and cigarillos come in flavors that are especially attractive to youth, including flavors that resemble those of candy, beverages, and other treats.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support SB 793. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Zarah Iqbal".

Zarah Iqbal, MD MPH  
Member, State Government Affairs Committee  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Kris Calvin, CEO AAP California; AAP California Leadership