



August 26, 2019

Senator Richard Pan
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, California, 95814

RE: SR 58 (Pan): Relative to Immunizations
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Pan:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California, representing over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician-members from California AAP chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4, strongly supports your Senate Resolution 58 recognizing August 2019 as National Immunization Month in California.

The AAP-CA is committed to increasing the rates of immunizations for infants, children and youth in California. The development of vaccines is one of the greatest advances in medical history and one of the most effective tools in preventing the spread of disease and premature death worldwide, and for those populations especially vulnerable to disease, including children and infants.

The effectiveness of immunizations greatly depends on the overall immunization rate across the population. For example, measles vaccine requires at least a 95% immunization rate to effectively limit transmission, but for many diseases the rate falls far below that benchmark in the US. This puts everyone in harm's way, even those who receive a vaccine. Fifty-thousand people die from vaccine-preventable diseases in the US each year. Recently, low immunization rates have allowed measles to re-emerge, with 1,164 cases in the US this year, including 5 separate outbreaks in California. These statistics are especially frightening for those who cannot receive vaccinations due to their age or weakened immune systems.

Resolution 58 will help bring public attention to this important issue by observing National Immunization Month in California, and urging public health agencies, care providers and others to spread the message that getting immunized is important for all Californians' health. Pediatricians across the state strongly support this resolution. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of the children, youth, and families of California.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support SR 58. 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 that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership