

March 26, 2019

Senator Richard Pan, Chair  
Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 2191  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 458 (Durazo): Public health: pesticide: chlorpyrifos.**  
**AAP-CA Position: CO-SPONSOR**

Dear Senator Pan:

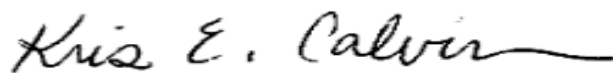
The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, strongly supports proposed legislation SB 458 (Durazo), which would prohibit the use of any pesticide containing the active ingredient chlorpyrifos.

Chlorpyrifos is highly toxic, with demonstrated severe health effects far below current average exposure levels. This is why the federal Environmental Protection Agency announced plans to ban its use on food in 2015, before reversing this decision in 2017. Then-President of the American Academy of Pediatrics Fernando Stein signed a statement that characterized this decision as “deeply alarm[ing],” noting the “wealth of science demonstrating the detrimental effects of chlorpyrifos exposure to developing fetuses, infants, children, and pregnant women,” including, in severe cases, convulsions, difficulty breathing, paralysis and death. One long-term Columbia University study found that toddlers with higher levels of chlorpyrifos exposure displayed developmental delays by age three, and were more than five times as likely to be on the autism spectrum and more than 11 times as likely to display symptoms of attention disorders than their peers. Moreover, even by the EPA’s own estimates, children and pregnant women are exposed to far higher levels of chlorpyrifos than could reasonably be considered safe, with toddlers’ exposure levels an astonishing 140 times higher.

SB 458 (Durazo) would make sure that no children or families who consume California produce are thus exposed to this dangerous substance by banning its use as a pesticide, likely avoiding the many thousands of illnesses that would result from unsafe exposure levels in food and benefiting millions of families across the nation.

Pediatricians across the state of California urge an AYE vote on SB 458 (Durazo). 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 Maria Elena Durazo; AAP-CA Leadership