



April 22, 2019

Assembly Member Kansen Chu,
Chair, Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, & Internet Media
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 152
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 379 (Maienschein) Youth athletics: concussion & sudden cardiac arrest prevention protocols.
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Chu:

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 AB 379 (Maienschein) expanding the definition of youth sports organization and adding sudden cardiac arrest prevention protocols to already existing protocols.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that approximately 2000 patients younger than 25 years die of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) annually in the United States. SCA occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating — typically due to arrhythmia. Many children and their parents are unaware they have a potentially fatal heart abnormality until it is too late. SCA is the most common cause of death among young athletes and is often fatal if not treated within minutes, making it vital to educate coaches to recognize and treat SCA and to educate parents and student athletes about warning signs and risk factors..

The Korey Stringer Institute at the University of Connecticut, whose mission is to provide research, education, advocacy and consultation to maximize performance, optimize safety and prevent sudden death for the athlete, warfighter and laborer, has ranked California as 50th among the states regarding the implementation of evidence-based best practices for preventing and managing the leading causes of sudden death in secondary school athletics.

AB 379 (Maienschein) would be a major step forward in protecting California's children from harm as they participate in athletic pursuits. Pediatricians across the state urge you to vote AYE on AB 379 (Maienschein). Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin" with a long, sweeping underline.

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: AAP-CA Leadership; the Honorable Brian Maienschein (author)