

March 11, 2019

Assembly Member Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr, Chair
Committee on Public Safety
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 503 (Flora) Gun-free school zone
AAP-CA Position: Oppose

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer,

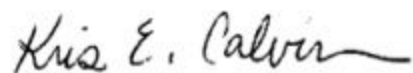
The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, respectfully opposes proposed legislation AB 503 (Flora) allowing certain individuals with a valid concealed carry weapons (CCW) permit to carry their firearm while attending religious services at a facility located on school property after obtaining prior written permission of the school authority.

Loosening restrictions on concealed carry firearms in California's school zones is contrary to the need for the legislature to increase protections for children, youth and the community from gun violence. Commenting in 2017 on proposed federal legislation that would have made it easier to carry locked, loaded, and hidden firearms in public, AAP Past President Fernando Stein, MD states, "Research shows that easier access to firearms increases the risk that children and youth will be injured or killed by guns; making the concealed carry of firearms easier is a threat to children's safety."

Further, the American Academy of Pediatrics urges legislators to "...reject any legislation that weakens gun violence prevention laws and puts children's safety at risk... All children deserve to be safe from gun violence where they live, learn and play. Pediatricians will not stand for anything less than progress when it comes to protecting children, families and communities from gun violence."

Pediatricians across the state respectfully oppose AB 503 (Flora) and urge you to vote NAY. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP-CA Leadership, Lydia Bourne