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August 18, 2020

Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager  
State Capitol, P.O. Box 949849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0054

**RE: AB 1950 (Kamlager): Probation: length of terms**  
**AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Kamlager,

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 AB 1950 as amended on June 10, 2020. This bill amends the California State Penal Code to limit adult probation to a maximum of one year for misdemeanor offenses and two years for felony offenses except for offenses defined by law as violent felonies, or offenses that include a specific probation term within their provisions.

A 2018 Justice Center of the Council of State Governments study found that a large portion of people violate probation and end up incarcerated as a result. The study revealed that 20 percent of prison admissions in California are the result of probation violations. Close to half of those violations are technical and minor in nature, such as missing a drug rehab appointment or socializing with a friend who has a criminal record.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) sees prolonged imprisonment and lengthy probation sentences as pediatric issues because of the stresses these sentences impose on the children of offenders. The conditions of parole may make it difficult for parents to obtain steady employment, attend their children's doctors' appointment, and participate fully in a child's education. Parents on probation are at a high risk of going back to jail or prison, which places even more financial and emotional stress on their children.

Research by the California Budget & Policy Center shows that probation services, such as mental healthcare and addiction treatment, are most effective during the first 18 months of supervision. A shorter term of probation, allowing for an increased emphasis on services, should lead to improved outcomes for people on misdemeanor and felony probation while reducing the number of people on probation returning to incarceration.

Pediatricians across the state strongly support AB 1950. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marti Baum".

Marti Baum, MD FAAP  
Member, State Government Affairs Committee  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Kris Calvin, CEO; AAP-CA Leadership