



American Academy of Pediatrics, California
5000 Campus Drive Newport Beach, CA 92660
Phone (626) 796-1632 | **Fax**
(626) 628-3382
Email: office@aap-ca.org | www.AAP-CA.org

August 19, 2020

Assembly Member David Chiu
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

RE: AB 2847 (CHIU): Firearms: Unsafe Handguns
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Chiu,

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 legislation AB 2847 as amended on July 2, 2020. This bill would revise the criteria for unsafe handguns by requiring a microstamp to be imprinted in one place on the interior of the handgun and by requiring the removal of non-compliant handguns from the roster of safe handguns.

Gun violence is among the greatest public health crises facing children and youth. Nearly 7,000 children younger than 18 are killed or wounded by gunshots each year. Firearm-related deaths are the third leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 17, outpaced only by death from car crashes and drownings and illnesses like cancer. It is imperative that we do all within our power to reduce gun violence. The American Academy of Pediatrics states, "We can start by working to advance meaningful legislation that keeps children safe. The American Academy of Pediatrics advocates for stronger state and federal gun laws that protect children, including stronger background checks, solutions addressing firearm trafficking, and encouraging safe firearm storage."

Existing law requires the Department of Justice to compile a roster listing all of the handguns that have been tested and determined not to be unsafe handguns. One of these criteria involves a set of characters called a microstamp, which is transferred from the gun to the cartridge when the gun is fired. AB 2847 revises the criteria for unsafe handguns by requiring the microstamp to be imprinted in one standard place on the interior of the handgun, and would require the department to remove 3 firearms that are not compliant with current requirements from the roster for every new firearm added. These steps would reduce the number of unsafe handguns in circulation and make solving crimes easier.

Pediatricians across the state strongly support AB 2847. 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 black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kris Calvin, CEO
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: AAP Leadership