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April 20, 2021

The Honorable David Chiu  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

**RE: AB 1478 (CHIU) FIREARMS: UNSAFE HANDGUNS**  
**AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Chiu,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports AB 1478, as introduced on February 19, 2021, which would require that the microscopic characters that can be used to identify a pistol be imprinted in two or more places in the interior of the pistol, and that any pistol that does not have these characters, and does not have a chamber load indicator or magazine disconnect mechanism be excluded from the Department of Justice list 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 drowning 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.”<sup>1</sup>

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 1478 would require that this set of characters be located in two different places in the pistol and that the pistol also have a chamber load indicator and magazine disconnect mechanism. Under AB 1478, pistols that do not conform to these requirements would not be included on the Department of Justice’s roster of safe handguns.

AAP-CA strongly supports AB 1478 and urges you to vote YES. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Jacques Corriveau, MD FAAP  
Chair, State Government Affairs Committee  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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<sup>1</sup> <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/130/5/e1416>

cc: AAP Leadership