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March 11, 2021

The Honorable Dave Min
State Capitol, Room 2048
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 264 (Min) Firearms: State Property and County Property
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Min,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports SB 264 as amended on February 24, 2021, which would prohibit the sale of firearms or ammunition on state-owned and county-owned property.

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.

In 2018, Governor Gavin Newsom (then Lt. Governor) supported AB 893 (Gloria), a bill which ended gun shows at the Del Mar State Fairground. At that time, Newsom stated, “permitting the sale of firearms and ammunition on state-owned property only perpetuates America’s gun culture at a time when 73 percent of Californians support gun reform measures.” AB 893 was signed into law on October 11, 2019. SB 264 seeks to extend the prohibition of firearm and ammunition sales to all state-owned and county-owned properties.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy states, “the absence of guns from children’s homes and communities is the most reliable and effective measure to prevent firearm-related injuries to children and adolescents.”¹ SB 264 is one more step in protecting California’s children from gun violence. AAP-CA strongly supports SB 264. 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, appearing to be "SPham".

Sharon Pham, M.D. FAAP
Member, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership

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