



The American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 2 Condemns Attacks on Those Protecting Public Health

Pasadena, CA (June 18, 2020)

Our local chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, representing over 1,500 pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists in 7 counties in California, strongly condemns recent unfair and uninformed attacks on local health officers and directors who provide evidence-based leadership and guidance to protect their communities from the spread of COVID-19.

A half dozen local public health officers and directors have left or will leave their positions shortly, reportedly driven out by threats and/or political considerations having taken precedence over the public's health.

This is not typical. This is not acceptable.

Pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists rely on local health officials and partner with them to keep children and communities safe. We urge elected officials at every level to take steps to ensure that health officers feel safe and are empowered to continue in their critically important leadership roles.

Children in particular are a vulnerable population and public health departments have always monitored the safety, health and well-being of children in a number of settings. As pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists, we rely on our public health officials to give us recommendations and have partnered with them on a number of occasions related to clean water, immunizations, and vaping. We hope that there is a path forward in which our public health officials feel safe and empowered to continue protecting us and our communities.

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