

# American Academy of Pediatrics

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**California Chapter 2 - Kern | Los Angeles | Riverside | San Bernardino |  
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**AAP-CA Chapter 2**

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Dear Assembly Member Rudy Salas,

**Re: BILL AB 58 (Salas) Youth Suicide Prevention – SUPPORT**

**AAP-CA Chapter 2**

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The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) California Chapter 2, which represents over 1,000 pediatricians, is in full support of AB 58 (Salas), which would require that local education agencies (LEAs) update their suicide prevention training materials, encourage LEAs to provide suicide awareness and prevention training to teachers annually beginning with the 2024-25 school year, and expand school-based health centers in high suicide prevalence areas.

Schools play a pivotal role in providing students with an entry point to access suicide prevention and other mental health services. With long-term, trusting relationships with students in environments where they spend much of their day, school staff are often the first to identify students who are facing mental health challenges. Students often feel more comfortable talking with school staff who know them well about these challenges. Moreover, students may not be aware of how to access mental health services for themselves. As a pediatrician, while I would love to see all of my adolescent patients for their annual check-ups and connect students struggling with thoughts of suicide to help, adolescents often do not seek medical attention until their problems become more severe. AB 58 will empower school staff that see adolescents regularly to act early to help manage students with thoughts of suicide, which one out of every 15 high school students attempts each year.

We are pleased that you have written and advocated for passage of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Fein, MD, MS, MPP  
AAP-CA2