May 6, 2019

Assembly Member Christy Smith

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1336 Kids Plates unintentional injury list update – statement of support and sponsorship

Dear Assembly Member Smith:

The California Coalition for Children’s Safety and Health (CCCSH) is pleased to sponsor and support your AB 1336. CCSH was one of the sponsors of the original Kids Plates legislation back in 1992, (AB 3087/1992 Speier). Since the early 1990s CCCSH has been one of the leading statewide coalitions working to help end unintentional injury as the leading cause of death and hospitalization for California’s children and youth through age 19 years old. Your bill provides an updated list of the leading causes of unintentional injury issues that guide where Kids Plates funds can be directed to reduce childhood unintentional injury deaths and hospitalizations.

Kids Plates funding program provides an institutionalized source for childhood unintentional injury prevention efforts around our state. It has been more than 26 years since the list of unintentional injuries has been updated within this part of the Kids Plates law. Your bill brings the Kids Plate unintentional injury issue list up to date on the current unintentional injury causes leading to the most deaths and hospitalizations for our children and youth.

Kids Plates license program was created to help fund three issues addressing children’s safety: child care health and safety, child abuse prevention and childhood unintentional injury prevention. AB 1336 adds several important unintentional injury issues into the Kids Plates specialty vehicle license plate program: pedestrian safety, prescription medication poisoning, infant/baby sleep suffocation, kids left in cars, children backed over in driveways and parking lots, and sports related concussions and heat stroke, to the existing unintentional injury issues list in the Kids Plates law.

Kids Plates funding is collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles and deposited into the Child Health and Safety Fund, which was created by the same 1992 legislation. The 25% of the Kids Plates funding dedicated to childhood unintentional injury is allocated to the Department of Public Health, which through the guidance of the California Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project, allocates funds to statewide and local childhood unintentional injury prevention programs. Without the updates in AB 1336 local childhood unintentional injury efforts have to avoid working on key injury issues. The unintentional injury issues addressed in AB 1336 are identified in the California Department of Public Health’s EPICenter injury surveillance data system as being leading causes of death and hospitalization of California’s children. For example without AB 1336 if a local childhood safety program is working on safe routes to schools, which involves bicycle and pedestrian safety, the program can only use its Kids Plates funding for the bicycle safety component of the program and not the pedestrian component. This forces local injury prevention efforts to bifurcate local efforts to fit within the outdated Kids Plates unintentional injury issues list. AB 1336 corrects this problem.

If you have any questions regarding our position and sponsorship of your AB 1336 or CCCSH or the California Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project, the origination of this bill issue, contact me or Steve Barrow, Program Director, CCCSH at cbarankin@aol.com or scbarrow88@gmail.com.

Sincerely

**Cathy Barankin**

Catherine Barankin, Executive Director

California Coalition for Children’s Safety and Health