



**JAMES L. MADARA, MD**  
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February 28, 2019

The Honorable Steven Glazer  
Chair  
Senate Business, Professions and  
Economic Development Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2053  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AMA opposition to S.B. 201

Dear Chair Glazer:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I am writing to express our opposition to Senate Bill (S.B.) 201, legislation that would impose a blanket prohibition on early interventions related to differences of sex development (DSD) without a minor's informed consent.

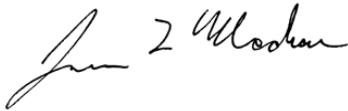
Cases of DSD are highly complex and individualized. The term "differences of sex development" encompasses a very broad range of conditions, spanning a spectrum of severity and implications for patients' immediate and long-term health. Decisions related to DSD in children are made in the face of an extremely complex clinical picture and carry enormous significance for patients and their families while also implicating socially and culturally sensitive issues of embodiment, gender and sexuality. Thoughtful stakeholders can and do disagree in good faith about whether and at what developmental stage in a child's life intervention should be considered medically essential, preferred or acceptable. In addition, the body of evidence available to inform such decisions remains both limited and contested in important ways.

In the absence of consensus on the extent to which DSD conditions require medical intervention, physicians must tailor recommendations about specific interventions and the timing of those interventions to each patient's unique circumstances. Such decisions must be sensitive to the child's clinical situation, nurture the child's short and long-term development and balance the need to preserve the child's opportunity to make important life choices autonomously in the future. We believe it would be inappropriate and harmful for the state of California to legislatively dictate that early intervention is never appropriate and limit the range of options physicians, patients and families may consider when making difficult decisions for pediatric patients.

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We urge you to vote against S.B. 201 and thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter. If you need further information, please contact Annalia Michelman, JD, Advocacy Resource Center at [annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org](mailto:annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-4788.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James L. Madara".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: California Medical Association  
American Urological Association  
Jack Resneck, Jr., MD  
Karthik V. Sarma, MS