



September 10, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814 4900

RE: Signature Request for AB 652 (Friedman) - PFAS in children's products

Dear Governor Newsom:

The undersigned organizations respectfully request that you sign Assembly Bill 652 by Assemblymember Friedman. AB 652 will prohibit PFAS chemicals from being used in a wide range of juvenile products. Simply put, the use of these chemicals is not essential for these products to be utilized, and their use results in exposure to toxic chemicals by our most vulnerable population.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of about 9,000 man-made chemicals used for a wide range of purposes, including stain and water resistance. They are called "forever" chemicals because they are extremely resistant to breaking down in nature. Californians are exposed to them through the manufacturing and use of PFAS-containing products, ingesting contaminated drinking water or food, and in their homes where PFAS is used on carpet, furniture, and in this case products uses for infants and children. The chemicals come off the products and are either ingested directly (think of infants putting almost everything in their mouths), inhaled, or ingested in dust.

PFAS have been linked to serious health problems, including cancer, hormone disruption, kidney and liver damage, thyroid disease, and immune system disruption. The entire class of PFAS chemicals has been recognized as chemicals of concern by a wide array of scientific experts at the state and federal level. Recent research suggests that PFAS may reduce the immune system's response to vaccinations, which in the midst of a pandemic, has compounded the medical, scientific and political concern. As part of their Safer Consumer Products program, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control has verified the science that shows potential harm to humans from PFAS, thus effectively refuting the industry's claim that the newer short-chain PFAS are safe compared to the older long-chain versions.

Last year, you signed legislation (SB 1044) phasing out the use of PFAS fire-fighting foam. This year, we have a chance to lead the nation in mandating the removal of harmful PFAS from a range of products used by children. Like California banned the use of toxic flame retardants in 2018 from these same juvenile products (AB 2998, Bloom, Chapter 924), the State should do the same with PFAS chemicals by enacting AB 652.

We respectfully urge your signature on AB 652. Thank you for your consideration.

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cc: Assemblymember Laura Friedman