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June 30, 2017

The Honorable Tony Thurmond  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment  
1020 N Street, Room 155  
Sacramento, California 95814

SB 258 (Lara): Cleaning Product Right to Know Act  
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Thurmond:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing the 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of all four California AAP regional chapters statewide, strongly supports proposed legislation SB 258 (Lara). This bill would require that cleaning product manufacturers list their ingredients on product labels and online.

Many cleaning products include ingredients that are known or suspected to be unsafe, especially in large quantities or with repeated exposure. Parents must take special cautions when introducing toxic substances into the home: children are especially susceptible to the effects of toxic chemicals, and young children are also prone to accidentally ingest cleaning products mistaken for food or candy. Moreover, many children suffer from allergies or sensitivities to certain substances that are commonly used in cleaning products. However, it is very difficult for parents to shield their children from exposure to these substances when manufacturers routinely do not disclose the ingredients in their products. Low-income families and children are disproportionately affected: whereas many who would prefer to avoid certain chemicals can afford to shop around or choose products that voluntarily list their ingredients, this is often not possible on a tight budget.

SB 258 (Lara) would ensure that California families know what they are bringing into their home by requiring that cleaning product manufacturers list potentially hazardous ingredients both on their product labels and online. This would help protect California children from the effects of toxic chemicals, and would also be especially beneficial to those California children who suffer from allergies, sensitivities, and other medical issues that require special care.

California pediatricians urge an AYE vote on SB 258 (Lara). We thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized cursive initial followed by the letters 'MD'.

Yasuko Fukuda, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Vice Chair, District IX of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Executive Board, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Kris Calvin, CEO; AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne; The Honorable Ricardo Lara