April 1, 2019

Senator Richard Pan, Chair
Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Pan:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, strongly supports proposed legislation SB 574 (Leyva), which would require cosmetics manufacturers to disclose fragrance or flavor ingredients used in their products that appear on certain lists of hazardous chemicals, and would require the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control to post a list of these fragrance and flavor ingredients on its database alongside information about each ingredient’s associated health hazards.

It is the policy of the American Academy of Pediatrics that all chemicals marketed to consumers should first be shown to have a “reasonable certainty of no harm,” and that companies marketing products containing such chemicals should make available to the public an information sheet on each chemical, in lay language, which includes “the results of any premarket testing and any postmarket surveillance” of the chemical’s safety, as well as “information about risks associated with acute, high-dose exposure and chronic low-dose exposure” (“Chemical-Management Policy: Prioritizing Children's Health,” May 2011). However, no law currently requires disclosure of even the names of chemical fragrance ingredients in cosmetic products. This is despite the fact that industry lists reveal that the “fragrance” designation on an ingredient label may refer to any combination of thousands of different chemicals—a substantial number of which are known to be toxic to humans.

SB 574 (Leyva) would require that manufacturers disclose potentially hazardous ingredients used to scent cosmetic products. This would help keep all Californians safe from the health hazards of toxic chemicals—especially our state’s youngest residents, who are more susceptible because of their small body size, vulnerable developmental stage, and greater likelihood of accidentally ingesting inedible substances.

Pediatricians across the state of California urge an AYE vote on SB 574 (Leyva). Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of the children, youth, and families of California.

Sincerely,

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: The Honorable Connie Leyva; AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne