

## **Western Occupational & Environmental Medical Association**

A Component Society of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

June 12, 2013

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The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair  
Assembly Judiciary Committee  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 193 (Monning)  
WOEMA Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Wieckowski,

The Western Occupational and Environmental Medical Association (WOEMA) urges your support of SB 193 (Monning) when it is heard in your committee. With 500 physicians and healthcare professionals in five Western states, WOEMA serves as a professional association that advocates for worker health and safety and the health of populations and their environments.

SB 193 will require chemical manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, importers, and their agents, upon written request, and under conditions of confidentiality, to provide the names and addresses of their customers who have purchased chemicals or products containing those chemicals and their proportions, to the repository maintained by the Hazard Evaluation System and Information Service (HESIS).

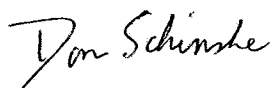
Current law requires the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), with the State Department of Public Health (CDPH), to establish a repository of current data on toxic materials and harmful physical agents in use or potentially in use in California workplaces. That repository, held at HESIS, provides information of practical use to employers, employees, and other governmental agencies on the hazards of toxic materials and harmful physical agents used in the workplace.

However, current law does not require compliance with requests for information as to where chemicals are used, which undermines the ability of HESIS to provide early warnings to various industries regarding prospective hazards. HESIS has been handicapped for years in its ability to issue alerts and

disseminate technical information for best practices. One example of this occurred with the identification of diacetyl, a popcorn flavoring agent, as life-threatening hazard. With no contact information at hand, HESIS was reduced to trying to identify workplaces that used the chemical by searching through phone books.

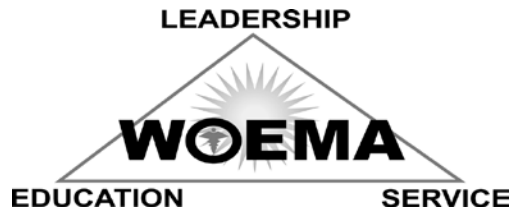
SB 193 will help clinicians work with CDPH when they have a sentinel case or cluster to ensure that the needed outreach and follow-up are provided. We agree that SB 193 is necessary for HESIS to gather the data required to fulfill its legislative mandate, and we encourage passage of this important bill.

Thank you for consideration,



Don Schinske  
Legislative Advocate

cc. The Honorable Donald Wagner, Vice Chair  
Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Bill Monning  
Assembly Judiciary Consultant



## **Western Occupational & Environmental Medical Association**

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April 12, 2013

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Anne Searcy, MD

The Honorable Noreen Evans, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 193 (Monning)**  
**WOEMA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Evans,

The Western Occupational and Environmental Medical Association (WOEMA) urges your support of SB 193 (Monning), which is scheduled to be heard in your committee on April 23. With 500 physicians and healthcare professionals in five Western states, WOEMA serves as a professional association that advocates for worker health and safety and the health of populations and their environments.

SB 193 will require chemical manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, importers, and their agents, upon written request, and under conditions of confidentiality, to provide the names and addresses of their customers who have purchased chemicals or products containing those chemicals and their proportions, to the repository maintained by the Hazard Evaluation System and Information Service (HESIS).

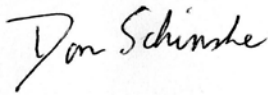
Current law requires the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), with the State Department of Public Health (CDPH), to establish a repository of current data on toxic materials and harmful physical agents in use or potentially in use in California workplaces. That repository, held at HESIS, provides information of practical use to employers, employees, and other governmental agencies on the hazards of toxic materials and harmful physical agents used in the workplace.

However, current law does not require compliance with requests for information as to where chemicals are used, which undermines the ability of HESIS to

provide early warnings to various industries regarding prospective hazards. HESIS has been handicapped for years in its ability to do the prevention and dissemination of technical information for best practices. One example of this difficulty was upon identification of the life-threatening hazard of the popcorn flavoring agent, diacetyl, for which HESIS was forced to try to identify workplaces using this chemical by searching the phone book for flavorings companies.

SB 193 will help clinicians work with CDPH when they have a sentinel case or cluster to ensure that the needed outreach and follow-up are provided. We agree that SB 193 is necessary for HESIS to gather the data required to fulfill its legislative mandate and support passage of this important bill.

Thank you for consideration,



Don Schinske  
Legislative Advocate

cc. The Honorable Mimi Walters, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Bill Monning  
Senate Judiciary Consultant