Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 193. My name is Dr. Julia Quint. I am retired from the CA Department of Public Health and I am a former chief of HESIS.

One of HESIS' primary mandates is to warn workers and employers about chemicals that cause new or unrecognized health hazards such as cancer, nerve damage, and other serious health problems. The warnings help employers protect workers before they develop chronic diseases that are difficult to detect, and in some cases, fatal.

Before issuing an alert, HESIS needs strong and thoroughly reviewed scientific or medical evidence of the chemical's toxicity. To be effective, HESIS needs to target the alerts to affected workers and employers, and to recommend safer alternatives and other specific ways to prevent harmful exposures.

In 2002, HESIS did two things to get information on where specific chemicals are used in California.

HESIS contracted with UC Berkeley to conduct a study of existing hazardous chemicals databases in California and nationally to determine whether the databases could identify California workplaces where 7 toxic chemicals are used. Because of various deficiencies, none of the existing databases were able to provide the information. The findings of the study are still relevant today.

HESIS also sent letters to 96 manufacturers and importers of the 7

chemicals. HESIS requested the names and addresses of the California customers to whom they sold the 7 chemicals. Only 6 of the 96 manufacturers provided customer lists.

The negative results of these two activities underscore the need for the information that SB 193 would provide.

The following two examples also illustrate the need to target health warnings to specific workplaces, and the critical need for SB 193.

In 2003, HESIS issued an early warning about the health hazards of a new unregulated solvent called 1-bromopropane or n-propyl bromide. This is the same chemical that was profiled on the front page of the NY Times in March of this year.

HESIS warned that the chemical caused nerve damage and other serious health hazards. The HESIS Hazard Alert also included information on safer alternatives and on other ways to prevent health damage. However, HESIS was not able to target the information to specific workplaces where 1-bromopropane is used in California.

In 2008, a worker exposed to 1-brompropane developed nerve damage. His physician was not trained in occupational medicine and failed to correctly diagnose his condition. Targeted dissemination of the hazard alert may have prevented his nerve damage.

In 2006, HESIS learned that two California workers, one of whom is here today, had been diagnosed with a serious and potentially fatal lung

disease called bronchiolitis obliterans. Their disease was linked to exposure to diacetyl, a butter flavoring chemical, in a flavor manufacturing company. Bronchiolitis obliterans had previously been diagnosed in workers exposed to diacetyl in the microwave popcorn industry. Diacetyl also causes severe lung damage in animals. In spite of this, only five of 11 Material Safety Data Sheets for diacetyl listed bronchiolitis obliterans, and none of them listed symptoms of the disease.

To help prevent new cases of bronchiolitis obliterans, HESIS conducted extensive outreach to warn of the health hazards of diacetyl, and on how to detect the disease and reduce exposures. Unfortunately, HESIS was not able to target information to specific flavor companies that use diacetyl. In spite of the extensive outreach, five new cases of bronchiolitis obliterans had been diagnosed a year later.

Occupational diseases like bronchiolitis obliterans can be prevented. We owe it to our next witness, Mr. Corona, and to Ms. Ortiz and other workers to prevent them.

SB 193 will allow HESIS to help prevent disease by targeting warnings to specific workplaces where toxic chemicals are used.

I urge you to cast an aye vote in support of SB 193.