

February 25, 2013

Senator Bill Monning
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 90301
Emailed to Kathy Smith
Kathy.Smith@sen.ca.gov

Re: SB 193 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Monning:

The California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (Collaborative) is writing in strong support of SB 193.

Who we are.

The California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (Collaborative), formed in 2005, comprises approximately 33 public health and environmental advocates, salon workers and owners, and allies in government agencies. The Collaborative focuses on reproductive and environmental justice and health for the nail salon community through a multifaceted approach of outreach/education, research, and policy strategies.

The nail salon industry and the products used.

In the last decade, the number of nail technicians has increased by 374% to more than 380,000 nationwide, with women making up to 96% of the workforce. The majority of nail salon workers are women of color; an estimated 42% nationwide are Asian immigrants, and most are of reproductive age. One in five manicurists work in California, where up to 80% are Vietnamese women, many of whom have limited English skills. Most salon workers earn less than \$21,800 per year.

On a daily basis, for long hours at a time, nail salon workers handle solvents, glues, polishes, dyes and other beauty care products containing a multitude of chemicals known or suspected to cause cancer, allergies, respiratory, neurological and reproductive harm. Acute health symptoms – such as headaches, dizziness, rashes and breathing difficulties – have been well documented and salon workers often report such health problems. More serious problems – such as miscarriages, birth defects, cancer and respiratory illnesses – are also of significant concern, yet have been more difficult to document as little research has been conducted on the chronic impacts associated with exposures.

Known as the “Toxic Trio,” toluene, formaldehyde and dibutyl phthalate (DBP) are three chemicals in nail care products which are of particular concern. They are linked with a range of negative health outcomes from cancer to reproductive and developmental harm to asthma and allergic dermatitis. The science on

the Toxic Trio is clear, but the myriad other chemicals used in salons lack toxicology data and there is little understanding of the health effects, suggesting the critical need for increased research and the development of safer alternatives by manufacturers.

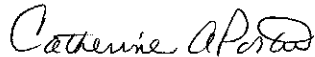
The Hazard Evaluation System and Information System (HESIS) must have the ability to require information from manufacturers and others in order to protect public health.

SB 193 would require chemical manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, importers, and their agents to provide to HESIS in the California Department of Public Health the names and addresses of their customers who have purchased specified chemicals or commercial products containing those chemicals. With SB 193, when information regarding negative health impacts of certain chemicals or products comes to its attention, HESIS would be able to find out to whom and where the manufacturer sold the chemical or product. HESIS is then able to advise that company or person who purchased the chemicals on measures it can take to protect its workers, including information on safer alternatives.

As nail salon workers are exposed to a whole host of products and chemicals whose health effects are not all known, HESIS's authority to act on new information is vital in protecting that community's health and safety. Indeed, it is vital to protecting the health and safety of all workers.

We thank you for authoring this important bill.

Regards,



Catherine A. Porter, JD
Policy Director
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative