



February 14, 2013

The Office of State Senator William W. Monning SD-17
State Capitol Room 4164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB193 (Monning) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Monning,

The California State Association of Occupational Health Nurses (CSAOHN), the California members of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN), represents the largest group of healthcare professionals serving the workplace in California. On behalf of CSAOHN, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 193.

SB193 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 places of employment in the state. 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 workplace. Current law however does not require compliance with requests for information on where chemicals are used, and therefore, 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 is the popcorn flavoring diacetyl, when HESIS arduously tried to identify customers of flavorings companies by searching the phone book.

SB193 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 SB193 is necessary in order for HESIS to gather the data required to fulfill its legislative mandate and applaud your introduction of this critical bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Hale, MSN, NP, COHN-S
President, California State Association of Occupational Health Nurses
310-825-6771