

## **6.i. Support Letters – Members/State Electeds**

DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
CALIFORNIA



672  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND  
ADMINISTRATION - CHAIRMAN  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

September 24, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I urge you to sign Assembly Bill 1108, legislation that would restrict the use of phthalates in toys and other products for children. This bill presents California with the opportunity to be a national leader in the protection of children's health.

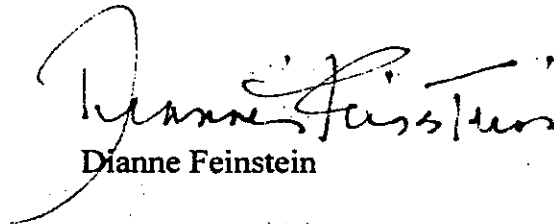
Phthalates leach out of toys, teething rings, and other many products and into the mouths of children. As all parents know, young children will place just about anything in their mouths.

The potential consequences are serious, as a growing body of scientific evidence links phthalates to serious health conditions, including reproductive and genital defects, premature birth, and the early onset of puberty. Additional animal research links phthalates to prostate, breast, and testicular cancers. Earlier this year, over 200 scientists at the International Conference on Fetal Programming and Development Toxicity called for policymakers to focus on the danger posed by phthalates and other chemicals.

This emerging research led the European Union to ban phthalates in toys and childcare articles, on the principle that products not known to be safe for children should not be in use. We should do the same. The United States risks becoming a dumping ground for phthalate filled toys that can no longer be legally sold overseas. I understand that you are being heavily lobbied by toy manufacturers and the chemical industry. But the health and safety of children, especially infants, should be foremost in any evaluation of this bill.

I urge you to sign AB 1108 into law, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to promote the health and safety of all Californians.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dianne Feinstein

DF/kw

## **6.ii. Support Letters – Organizations/Local Gov't**

September 18, 2007



The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1108 (Ma) - REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The American Cancer Society, California Division writes to request your signature on AB 1108 (Ma). This bill would ensure that toddlers are not exposed to phthalates by prohibiting the production and sale of toys intended for children three and under in California if they have phthalate concentrations of more than one-tenth of one percent.

For the American Cancer Society, the policy question centers on the potential to abate cancer risk by reducing exposure of our children to phthalates. While the science is not conclusive on this issue, we believe that the population in question, children, warrant special consideration. There is evidence that phthalates are a carcinogen in laboratory animals and that the effects are greater on young and developing animals. Further, the National Toxicology Program has classified one phthalate (DEHP) as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen, and several phthalates--DEHP, BBP, DBP, DnHP - are already on the state's Prop. 65 list of substances known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

Additionally, the bill deals with toys intended for use by children three and under. These little people frequently put toys in their mouths. Given that phthalates are readily absorbed, a child's exposure to these questionable substances is certain when the chemical is used in those toys.

With the growing body of evidence questioning the safety of phthalates and because we believe there is reason to be more cautious about potential carcinogen exposures with the very young, we think AB 1108 is a reasonable and common-sense bill.

We respectfully ask that you sign AB 1108 (Ma). If you have questions, please contact me at 916.448.0500 ex. 305.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Sanchez".

S. Alecia Sanchez  
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Fiona Ma  
Dan Jacobson, Environment California

**Government Relations**

1717 L Street, Suite 1800, Sacramento, CA 95811-3438 (t) 916-448-0500 (f) 916-447-6011  
E-mail: [legis@acs.org](mailto:legis@acs.org) [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org)



PREVENTION STARTS HERE.

September 14, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 445-4633

**RE: AB 1108 (Ma) - SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of the Breast Cancer Fund, I am writing to urge you to sign into law AB 1108 (Ma), which would protect California's children from toxic chemicals in common childcare products.

The Breast Cancer Fund is a national organization committed to identifying and eliminating the environmental and other preventable causes of breast cancer. We work with advocates and decision-makers to encourage research and policy initiatives that seek to better understand, and respond to, environmental toxins that contribute to increased rates of breast cancer and other diseases.

Over the last several decades, children have faced an increasingly challenging time just making it through what should be normal stages of growth and development. Incidences of reproductive defects, childhood obesity, early onset puberty, learning disabilities, and many other chronic health problems are on the rise. Many of these problems have been linked with exposure to toxic chemicals.


Of particular concern are those chemicals found in products children use everyday, such as their toys and feeding products. For example, phthalates, used in a variety of children's products including soft plastic toys and teething rings, have been linked to developmental problems, such as premature breast development in girls, male genital defects, and reduced sperm quality. Emerging research on phthalates has shown that these chemicals, even in extremely low doses, contribute significantly to increased breast cancer risk.

Phthalates are known to disrupt the endocrine system. Since a woman's lifetime risk of breast cancer is directly related to the amount of estrogen she is exposed to, any chemical that can mimic estrogen is of particular concern to us. Any chemical that is known to be estrogenic does not belong, in any amount, in our children's toys or feeding products.

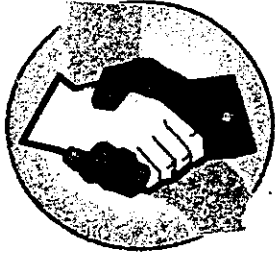
For many chemicals, including phthalates alternatives exist. Some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating these hazards from their products. Yet, there currently are no laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals, and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy will help—or hinder—their child's development.

AB 1108 would prohibit the manufacture, sale, and distribution of children's products that contain phthalates. By eliminating unnecessary exposure to phthalates in children's products, California will again be a leader in protecting children from unnecessary toxic exposure.

Very truly yours,



Janet Nudelman  
Director of Program and Policy



**California Labor Federation AFL-CIO**

[www.calfed.org](http://www.calfed.org)

**Headquarters:** 600 Grand Ave  
Suite 410  
Oakland, CA 94610-3561

1127 11th St  
Suite 425  
Sacramento, CA 95814-3809

3303 Wilshire Blvd  
Suite 415  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1798

510.663.4000 tel  
510.663.4099 fax

916.444.3676 tel  
916.444.7693 fax

213.736.1770 tel  
213.736.1777 fax

September 14, 2007

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1108 (Ma) – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, supports AB 1108 (Ma), which would prohibit the manufacture, sale, and distribution of children's products that contain phthalates. By eliminating unnecessary exposure to phthalates in children's products, California would be the first state in the nation to protect children from these toxic chemicals.

Over the last several decades, children have faced an increasingly challenging time just making it through what should be normal stages of growth and development. Incidences of reproductive defects, childhood obesity, early onset puberty, learning disabilities, and many other chronic health problems are on the rise. Many of these problems have been linked with exposure to toxic chemicals.

Of particular concern are those chemicals found in products children use everyday, such as their toys and feeding products. For example, phthalates, used in a variety of children's products including soft plastic toys and teething rings, have been linked to developmental problems, such as premature breast development in girls, male genital defects, and reduced sperm quality.

For many chemicals, including phthalates, alternatives exist. Some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating these hazards from their products. Yet, there currently are no laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals, and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy will help—or hinder—their child's development.

Our concern for union brothers and sisters who we represent often goes beyond the workplace and support for AB 1108 is an example of that. We need to help keep our workers safe in their homes and their workplaces.

We urge you to sign AB 1108 into law when it reaches your desk.

Sincerely,

Art Pulaski  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
JS: sm  
OPEIU 3 AFL CIO (31)

Cc: Michael Proio, Governor's Office  
Pam Olo, Legislative Unit, Governor's Office  
Assemblywoman Fiona Ma



**CALIFORNIA  
NURSES  
ASSOCIATION**



**NATIONAL NURSES  
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

A Voice for Nurses. A Vision for Healthcare.  
www.calnurses.org / www.nnoc.net

September 6, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

**AB 1108 (Ma) – SUPPORT  
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The 75,000 Registered Nurses of the California Nurses Association supports **AB 1108 (Ma)** which would prohibit the manufacture, sale and distribution of children's products that contain phthalates by January 1, 2009.

Phthalates are used to prolong the durability of plastics and increase the flexibility of some plastics, and have been used as solvents for other materials. They are used in hundreds of products: including vinyl flooring, adhesives, detergents, lubricating oils, some pharmaceutical and pesticide formulations, and personal-care products.

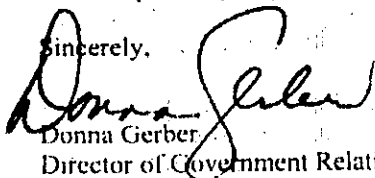
It is of great concern to CNA that these phthalates are used in products that children use on a daily basis such as toys, pacifiers and feeding products. These chemicals have been linked to genetic defects such as Down's syndrome, early onset puberty, abnormal growth, hyperactivity, premature breast development in girls and male genital defects.

Major industries have taken steps toward eliminating these harmful agents in products. Disney and Mattel no longer use phthalates in mouthing products for children and Evenflo, First Years, and Gerber stopped using phthalates in all of their toys and childcare products. San Francisco County passed an ordinance prohibiting the manufacture, sale or distribution of toys or child care articles intended for use by a child under three years of age if the product contains bisphenol-A and phthalates. Several countries have adopted similar bans.

Currently, there are two states considering a similar ban on phthalates. California should be leading the nation on this important health and safety issue for our children.

CNA respectfully requests your signature.

Sincerely,



Donna Gerber  
Director of Government Relations

Cc: Assembly Member Ma

**OAKLAND Headquarters**  
2000 Franklin St  
Oakland CA 94612  
Tel: 510/273-2200  
Fax: 510/663-1625

**SACRAMENTO**  
1107 9th St, Ste. 900  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Tel: 916/446-5021  
Fax: 916/446-6319

**GLENDALE**  
425 W. Broadway Ste. 111  
Glendale CA 91204  
Tel: 818/240-1900  
Fax: 818/240-8336

**CHICAGO**  
850 W. Jackson #750  
Chicago IL 60607  
Tel: 312/491-4902  
Fax: 312/491-9614

**MAINE**  
160 Capitol St. #1  
Augusta ME 04330  
Tel: 207/622-1057  
Fax: 207/623-4072



FROM :

FAX NO. : 3106420836

Oct. 05 2007 04:05PM P2

672



# CALIFORNIA SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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*President*

Betty Jo Tocoli  
Los Angeles

October 5, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
ATTN: Chris Kahn, Legislative Director  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 1108

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The California Small Business Association is asking you to sign AB 1108 to keep California's youth safe as well as maintain a good business ethic. California small businesses care about its youth and try to maintain a healthy economy as well as a healthy consumer.

CSBA is a non-profit, grass roots organization representing over 203,000 small businesses in California. The mission of CSBA is to provide small business with an active voice in the California government.

We thank you for your leadership on this important issue and look forward to AB 1108 being signed.

Sincerely,

Betty Jo Tocoli  
President

*CSBA  
Means  
Business  
for  
Small  
Business.*



# Californians Against Waste

Conserving Resources. Preventing Pollution. Protecting the Environment.

September 18, 2007

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1108 (Ma) – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

We urge your signature on AB 1108 (Ma), which would protect California's children from toxic chemicals in common childcare products.

Californians Against Waste has been working for nearly three decades on efforts to reduce toxics in our environment. Exposure to toxic chemicals have already been linked to certain cancers, lead poisoning and even neurobehavioral disorders. Incidences of reproductive defects, childhood obesity, early onset puberty, learning disabilities, and many other chronic health problems are on the rise, and have been linked to exposure to toxic chemicals.

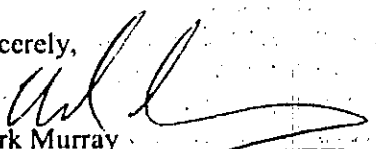
Of particular concern are those chemicals found in products children use every day, such as their toys and feeding products. Phthalates, used in a variety of children's products, including soft plastic toys and teething rings, have been linked to developmental problems, such as premature breast development in girls, male genital defects, and reduced sperm quality.

Alternatives to phthalates already exist and are on the market. Some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating these hazards from their products. Yet, there currently are no laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals, and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy will help—or hinder—their child's development.

AB 1108 would prohibit the manufacture, sale, and distribution of children's products that contain phthalates. By eliminating unnecessary exposure to phthalates in children's products, California will be the first in the nation to protect children from these toxic chemicals. The European Union and many countries have already taken this step.

We urge you stand up for the health of our children and sign AB 1108 into law.

Sincerely,

  
Mark Murray  
Executive Director

cc: John Moffatt, Governor's Office  
Linda Adams, Cal EPA Secretary  
Maureen Gorsen, Director Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Assembly Member Fiona Ma



185 Berry Street, Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94107-1739  
(415) 438-5500 telephone  
(415) 438-5724 facsimile  
www.chwHEALTH.org

Facsimile  
916.445.4633

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 1108 (Ma) -- REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Catholic Healthcare West, a Catholic healthcare system representing 42 hospitals in California, respectfully requests you to sign AB 1108, which will require all child care products and toys sold in California for children under the age of three to be free of chemicals called phthalates.

AB 1108 bans the use of six types of phthalates in toys. Phthalates are a family of chemicals that are put into plastic products, including toys, teething rings and rattles, to make them soft and pliable. Yet phthalates pose a particular health risk to infants and young children. Kids' curiosity and natural tendencies to explore the world around them by putting objects in their mouths virtually guarantee exposure to phthalates. But their bodies are less able to detoxify themselves. And as their organs develop, they pass through windows of vulnerability when even tiny doses of these toxic chemicals can have extra-harmful effects.

One scientific study after another has shown that minuscule doses of phthalates, doses that previously were assumed safe, can disrupt the hormonal balance of developing children, potentially causing serious, lifelong effects. Researchers have linked phthalates to early puberty in girls, reproductive problems, abnormalities of the penis, impaired sperm, liver and thyroid damage and testicular cancer. In fact, California has put several types of phthalates on its list of reproductive and developmental toxicants that, under certain conditions, require consumer warnings.

The timing of the exposure to these chemicals during early stages of development matters as much, if not more, than the dose. Unfortunately, a 2005 study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed nearly all children already have unhealthy levels of phthalates in their bodies. The good news is that there are safe, economical replacements for phthalates.

The European Union and 14 other countries have banned or restricted the use of phthalates in children's products. In the U.S., several leading toy manufacturers also have restricted their use of phthalates over the last few years as a result of research confirming health concerns. However, the vast majority of children's products available in the U.S. still contain phthalates. With available alternatives, toy companies are unnecessarily exposing children to toxic chemicals. AB 1108 would change this—California leading the nation toward the advancement of green chemistry and a healthier society.

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
October 9, 2007  
Page 2

Please support AB 1108 and sign it into law.

Sincerely,

Bernita McTernan  
Senior Vice President  
Sponsorship and Mission Integration



# CLEAN WATER ACTION

September 18, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
*Transmitted via facsimile to (916) 445-4633*

**RE: AB 1108 (Ma) – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of Clean Water Action and our 20,000 California members, I am writing to express our strong support for AB 1108 (Ma) and to urge you to sign it into law. This bill bans the use of phthalates, which have been linked to serious childhood developmental problems, in common children's products such as toys and feeding items.

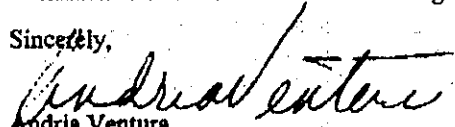
When you ran for Governor, you stated that keeping California's children healthy and safe would be a priority for your Administration. You have also expressed a commitment to addressing the health and environmental impacts of toxic chemicals by forming the Green Chemistry Initiative. As story after story appears in the press about toy recalls due to toxic materials, there is no better time for you to demonstrate your leadership by insisting that in California, children's products must be safe in order to be sold. Signing AB 1108 into law will provide you with that opportunity.

Clean Water Action is dedicated to protecting public health and the environment from toxic chemicals. We and our members are particularly concerned with the expanding evidence that hazardous materials in everyday products are linked to rising rates of serious health impacts in children, including impairment of brain development, reproductive problems, asthma, and even cancer.

Fortunately, these tragic consequences are avoidable, and banning phthalates in children's products is an important step. Some manufacturers have already begun offering phthalate-free products, and the European Union has banned them in children-oriented goods.

Governor Schwarzenegger, we ask you to please keep your promise to protect California's children and sign AB 1108. Don't let corporate interests cloud the issue in the face of compelling scientific research that has demonstrated the dangers of phthalates to the health of our most precious resources—our babies and youngsters. There are alternatives to these chemicals and using safer materials will benefit both the manufacturers' bottom line and our next generation.

Sincerely,

  
Andria Ventura  
Program Manager

cc: Assembly Member Fiona Ma

**CALIFORNIA OFFICE**  
111 New Montgomery St. Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
415.369.9160 • 415.369.9180 fax

[www.CleanWaterAction.org/ca](http://www.CleanWaterAction.org/ca)  
[cwasf@cleanwater.org](mailto:cwasf@cleanwater.org)

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
4455 Connecticut Ave. NW Suite  
A300  
Washington, DC 20008  
202.895.0420 • 202.895.0438 fax

# COMMONWEAL

A California Nonprofit Corporation

September 14, 2007

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 445-4633

**RE: AB 1108 (Ma) – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

This letter signals our support for AB 1108 (Ma), which awaits action on your desk. The bill will protect Californian children from toxic exposures to phthalate chemicals in toys.

Phthalates, like many chemicals in commerce, have insufficient health and safety data, which should be required before any chemical is approved for use. Nevertheless, the scientific and medical research now clearly shows that phthalates are potentially harmful reproductive toxicants. Children, especially baby boys, should not be chewing on plastic toys or teething rings which contain these chemicals.

Furthermore, we know from biomonitoring studies that exposure to phthalates is now widespread across the human population. These chemicals are now found in the body tissues of virtually everyone.

We have been grateful for your support of biomonitoring as evidenced by your signature in 2006 of SB 1379 (Perata and Ortiz) which created the nation's first state biomonitoring program.

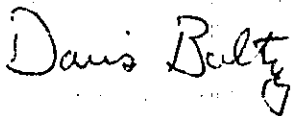
We know enough to act, and have a clear duty to reduce exposure. It is appropriate that California ban these chemicals in products that children are likely to come into contact with, especially as alternatives are already available in the marketplace.

This bill also points to the need for comprehensive chemicals policy reform to fix our broken system of chemical regulation and management. The public must have reasonable assurances of safety for industrial chemicals before they are marketed, not afterwards when harm has already been done.

Signing AB 1108 is an appropriate and necessary next step for California to demonstrate leadership in the green chemistry arena.

Founded in 1976, Commonweal is a nonprofit health and environmental research institute in Bolinas, California.

Sincerely,



Davis Baltz  
510 848-2714 dbaltz@igc.org

cc: Assembly Member Fiona Ma (916) 319-2112 (fax)

P.O. Box 316 Bolinas, CA 94924 Phone: (415) 868-0970 Fax: (415) 868-2230  
<http://www.commonweal.org>





520 S. El Camino Real, Suite 347, San Mateo, CA 94402 • Ph: 650-375-7940 • Email: info@consumercal.org • Web: consumercal.org

Richard Holober, Executive Director

James Gordon Jr., President  
Allen Davenport, Vice President  
Patricia Garcia, Vice President  
Regene Mitchem, Vice President  
Nancy Pevenny, Treasurer  
Lucinda Sikes, Secretary

September 18, 2007

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1108 (Ma) – request for signature**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

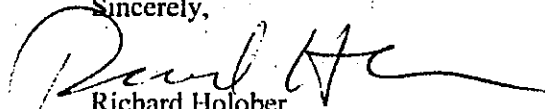
The Consumer Federation of California urges you to sign into law AB 1108 (Ma).

AB 1108 would ban the use of phthalates in products used by babies and children under the age of three. Phthalates are used to soften plastic in toys and items intended for babies to put in their mouths, including pacifiers and teething rings. Phthalates have been linked in scientific studies with testicular injury, liver injury, liver cancer and reproductive harm.

The European Union, Japan, Mexico, Argentina and several other nations have banned phthalates entirely or in products intended for use by babies and young children.

California should join these nations in banning the use of a toxic chemical that is harmful to our children. We urge you to sign AB 1108 into law.

Sincerely,



Richard Holober  
Executive Director



1444 9th Street  
Santa Monica CA 90401

tel 310-451-1500  
fax 310-496-1902

info@healthebay.org  
www.healthebay.org

## Heal the Bay

September 20, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 445-4633

### RE: AB 1108 (Ma) – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of Heal the Bay, I am writing to urge you to sign into law AB 1108 (Ma), which would protect California's children from toxic chemicals in common childcare products. As a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making the southern California's coastal waters and watersheds safe, healthy, and clean, we are deeply concerned about the environmental and health impacts of toxic additives present in plastics.

Over the last several decades, children have faced an increasingly challenging time just making it through what should be normal stages of growth and development. Incidences of reproductive defects, childhood obesity, early onset puberty, learning disabilities, and many other chronic health problems are on the rise. Many of these problems have been linked with exposure to toxic chemicals.

Of particular concern are those chemicals found in products children use every day, such as their toys and feeding products. For example, phthalates, used in a variety of children's products, including soft plastic toys and teething rings, have been linked to developmental problems, such as premature breast development in girls, male genital defects, and reduced sperm quality.

Alternatives to phthalates already exist and are on the market. Some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating these hazards from their products. Yet, there currently are no laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals, and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy will help—or hinder—their child's development.

AB 1108 would prohibit the manufacture, sale, and distribution of children's products that contain phthalates. By eliminating unnecessary exposure to phthalates in children's products, California will be the first in the nation to protect children from these toxic chemicals. The European Union and many countries have already taken this step.

Obviously, there is nothing more important to the future of the state, the country and the world than ensuring our children are healthy today. We urge you stand up for the health of our children and sign AB 1108 into law.

Sincerely,

Leslie Tamminen  
Legislative Director  
Heal the Bay



# HEALTHY CHILDREN ORGANIZING PROJECT

Formerly the Lead Poisoning Prevention Project

SEP 07 2007

Consumer Action  
221 Main St., 480  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 777-9648  
Fax: (415) 777-5267  
[www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org)

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 445-4633

September 6, 2007

RE: AB 1108 (Ma) - SUPPORT

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of the Healthy Children Organizing Project (HCOP), I am writing to urge you to sign into law AB 1108 (Ma), which would protect California's children from toxic chemicals in common childcare products.

Since 1990, HCOP's goal has been and continues to be protecting fetuses and young children from exposures to toxic chemicals.

Over the last several decades, children have faced an increasingly challenging time just making it through what should be normal stages of growth and development. Incidences of reproductive defects, childhood obesity, early onset puberty, learning disabilities, asthma and many other chronic health problems are on the rise. Many of these problems have been linked with exposure to toxic chemicals.

Of particular concern are those chemicals found in products children use every day, such as their toys and feeding products. For example, phthalates, used in a variety of children's products, including soft plastic toys and teething rings, have been linked to developmental problems, such as premature breast development in girls, male genital defects, reduced sperm quality and asthma.

Alternatives to phthalates already exist and are on the market. Some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating these hazards from their products. Yet, there currently are no laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals, and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy will help—or hinder—their child's development.

AB 1108 would prohibit the manufacture, sale, and distribution of children's products that contain phthalates. By eliminating unnecessary exposure to phthalates in children's products, California will be the first in the nation to protect children from these toxic chemicals. The European Union and many countries have already taken this step.

Obviously, there is nothing more important to the future of the state, the country, and the world than ensuring our children are healthy today. We urge you stand up for the health of our children and sign AB 1108 into law.

Sincerely,

  
Neil Gendel, Director

cc: Assembly Member Fiona Ma (916) 319-2112 (fax)



# Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital

A member of CHW

September 27, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 1108 (Ma) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

**Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital** respectfully requests you to sign AB 1108, which will require all child care products and toys sold in California for children under the age of three to be free of chemicals called phthalates.

AB 1108 bans the use of six types of phthalates in toys. Phthalates are a family of chemicals that are put into plastic products, including toys, teething rings and rattles, to make them soft and pliable. Yet phthalates pose a particular health risk to infants and young children. Kids' curiosity and natural tendencies to explore the world around them by putting objects in their mouths virtually guarantee exposure to phthalates. But their bodies are less able to detoxify themselves. And as their organs develop, they pass through windows of vulnerability when even tiny doses of these toxic chemicals can have extra-harmful effects.

One scientific study after another has shown that minuscule doses of phthalates, doses that previously were assumed safe, can disrupt the hormonal balance of developing children, potentially causing serious, lifelong effects. Researchers have linked phthalates to early puberty in girls, reproductive problems, abnormalities of the penis, impaired sperm, liver and thyroid damage and testicular cancer. In fact, California has put several types of phthalates on its list of reproductive and developmental toxicants that, under certain conditions, require consumer warnings.

The timing of the exposure to these chemicals during early stages of development matters as much, if not more, than the dose. Unfortunately, a 2005 study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed nearly all children already have unhealthy levels of phthalates in their bodies. The good news is that there are safe, economical replacements for phthalates.

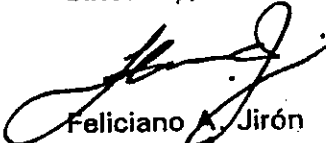
The European Union and 14 other countries have banned or restricted the use of

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
September 27, 2007  
Page 2

phthalates in children's products. In the U.S., several leading toy manufacturers also have restricted their use of phthalates over the last few years as a result of research confirming health concerns. However, the vast majority of children's products available in the U.S. still contain phthalates. With available alternatives, toy companies are unnecessarily exposing children to toxic chemicals. AB 1108 would change this—California leading the nation toward the advancement of green chemistry and a healthier society.

Please support AB 1108 and sign it into law.

Sincerely,



Feliciano A. Jirón  
President

FAJ/lr



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

September 6, 2007

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1108 (Ma) – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council), which has 1.2 million members and activists, 250,000 of whom are Californians, we are writing to request your signature on AB 1108 by Assembly Member Ma. This bill would protect children from endocrine disrupting chemicals in toys and child care products.

Extensive scientific evidence now exists that phthalates may pose risks to children and they have been linked to developmental alterations, especially of the testis and male reproductive system.

For many chemicals, including phthalates, alternatives exist and some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating these hazards from their products. Yet currently, there are no laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of phthalates, and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy may help—or hinder—their child's development.

AB 1108 would prohibit the manufacture, sale and distribution of children's toys and child care products that contain phthalates. By eliminating unnecessary exposure to these chemicals in children's products, California will follow the lead of the City of San Francisco, and will be the first state in the nation to protect children from these chemicals.

We urge you to sign AB 1108 for the health of our children. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Gina Solomon, MD, MPH  
Senior Scientist

Victoria Rome  
California Advocacy Deputy Director

Cc: Assembly Member Ma



September 28, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1108 (Ma) - REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) and the National Environmental Trust (NET) strongly support AB 1108 (Ma), which will prohibit the use in children's toys and feeding items of specified phthalates, a class of synthetic chemicals that are commonly found in humans at levels above those known to cause adverse health effects. We urge you to sign this important measure into law.

Phthalates are just one of the "poster children" for the U.S.'s completely failed chemicals policy. More than 80,000 chemicals are used in commerce in the U.S., yet public health experts and the public know very little about their potential health effects. And the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) is designed to make sure we never do. Like virtually the entire volume of chemicals in use today, phthalates were grandfathered when TSCA was adopted in 1979; TSCA makes it all but impossible to regulate, much less ban, these old chemicals. And unlike other areas of environmental law, where California often adopts stricter rules than the federal government, California has no law designed to comprehensively identify and regulate dangerous chemicals.

So when the manufacturers and users of phthalates claim there is no evidence of harm from their products, those claims should not be reassuring, since there is no regulatory structure to confirm or refute such claims. In the absence of a viable federal or state law to identify and restrict exposure to dangerous chemicals, the National Toxicology Program has reviewed the scientific literature on phthalates and found that all six phthalates regulated by AB 1108 pose reproductive or developmental risks to humans, especially infants, children and pregnant and lactating women.

A 2003 survey of human chemical contamination by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), still the largest ever done, found phthalates in every person tested and the highest levels in children and women of reproductive age. Adverse effects of exposure to phthalates include early puberty onset in girls (early puberty onset has recently been linked to a higher incidence of breast cancer later in life); premature birth; impaired sperm quality and sperm damage in men; genital defects; reduced testosterone production in boys; and testicular cancer.

In June 2005, *Scientific American* published a feature article titled "DOUBT is Their Product." It is worth quoting extensively from the article, since it goes to the heart of the problem being addressed by AB 1108:

September 28, 2007

Page 2

*Few scientific challenges are more complex than understanding the health risks of a chemical or drug. Investigators cannot feed toxic compounds to people to see what doses cause cancer. Instead laboratory researchers rely on animal tests, and epidemiologists examine the human exposures that have already happened in the field. Both types of studies have many uncertainties, and scientists must extrapolate from the evidence to make causal inferences and recommend protective measures. Because absolute certainty is rarely an option, regulatory programs would not be effective if such proof were required. Government officials have to use the best available evidence to set limits for harmful chemicals and determine the safety of pharmaceuticals.*

*Uncertainty is an inherent problem of science, but manufactured uncertainty is another matter entirely. Over the past three decades, industry groups have frequently become involved in the investigative process when their interests are threatened. If, for example, studies show that a company is exposing its workers to dangerous levels of a certain chemical, the business typically responds by hiring its own researchers to cast doubt on the studies. Or if a pharmaceutical firm faces questions about the safety of one of its drugs, its executives trumpet company-sponsored trials that show no significant health risks while ignoring or hiding other studies that are much less reassuring. The vilification of threatening research as "junk science" and the corresponding sanctification of industry-commissioned research as "sound science" has become nothing less than standard operating procedure in some parts of corporate America.*

The same industry that has spent the last 30 years making sure that TSCA is toothless is now selling doubt as sound science. Meanwhile the public, including the most vulnerable among us like infants and children, continue to be exposed to chemicals on a regular basis at levels that independent studies show cause harm. Certainty is a misguided and impossible goal; careful consideration of the preponderance of evidence in defense of public health should be the goal of the committee.

Until California or the federal government establishes a credible regulatory and oversight program to identify and mitigate the harmful effects of dangerous chemicals used in commerce, the Legislature will consider to pass bills like AB 1108. There is simply no regulatory recourse by which to deal with dangerous chemicals. For this reason, CLCV and NET strongly support AB 1108 and urge you to sign the bill into law.

Sincerely,



PETE PRICE  
Legislative Representative  
California League of Conservation Voters



ANDY IGREJAS  
Director of Environmental Health Programs  
National Environmental Trust

cc: Assemblywoman Fiona Ma  
Mr. Chris Kahn  
CalEPA Secretary Linda Adams

**President**  
John Van de Kamp

**President Emerita**  
Sage Sweetwood

**First Vice President**  
Bill Yeates

**Senior Vice President**  
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**Secretary/Treasurer**  
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## PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE

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Phyllis Fisher  
Rick Frank  
Rick Hawley  
Doug Lincey  
David Mognaro  
Lynn Sadler  
Teresa Vittegas

September 18, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1108 (Ma) – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Planning and Conservation League requests your support for Assembly Bill 1108 (Ma). This bill would protect California's children from toxic chemicals in common childcare products.

For many chemicals, including phthalates, alternatives exist. Some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating these hazards from their products. Yet, there currently are no laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals, and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy will help—or hinder—their child's development.

Of particular concern are those chemicals found in products children use everyday, such as their toys and feeding products. For example, phthalates, used in a variety of children's products including soft plastic toys and teething rings, have been linked to developmental problems, such as premature breast development in girls, male genital defects, and reduced sperm quality.

AB 1108 would prohibit the manufacture, sale, and distribution of children's products that contain phthalates. By eliminating unnecessary exposure to phthalates in children's products, California will be the first in the nation to protect children from these toxic chemicals.

The Planning and Conservation League respectfully requests your signature on AB 1108.

Sincerely,

  
René L. Guerrero  
Legislative Advocate

Cc: Assemblywoman Fiona Ma



1107 9th Street, Suite 360, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-444-8726 Fax: 916-448-1789

Website: [www.pcl.org](http://www.pcl.org) Email: [pclmail@pcl.org](mailto:pclmail@pcl.org)

This letter is printed on 60% recycled fiber, 30% post consumer waste, acid free paper.



Office of the Mayor  
City & County of San Francisco



Gavin Newsom

September 12, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1108 (Ma) – Toxics in children's toys**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The City and County of San Francisco urges your signature on AB 1108. This bill will support our efforts in San Francisco to ensure that the products sold to young children do not contain harmful chemicals such as phthalates. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has documented the fact that these chemicals are found in people across the country; at the same time scientists have demonstrated the harmful effects of these chemicals on developing reproductive systems. In the face of inaction at the federal level, it is left to individual cities, like San Francisco, and the State of California to take preventative action to protect the public health of its citizens.

We have found that once parents are made aware of the potentially harmful chemicals now used in products marketed for children, they are outraged and want to make sure they purchase safer alternatives. The problem with chemicals like phthalates is that they are not listed on product labels. Thus there is no way for parents to make an informed purchasing decision. This lack of product labeling means that the only way to help parents avoid these chemicals is to prevent their use in children's products altogether.

In 1999 and again in 2005, the European Union affirmed a ban on phthalates used in children's products. San Francisco recently passed a similar ban on phthalates on products sold in our city. With passage of AB 1108, the children of California will enjoy the same protection as those in San Francisco and in Europe.

We are proud of our efforts to ensure safe and healthy children's products and urge your signature on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom  
Mayor

CC:

Assemblywoman Fiona Ma  
Lynn Suter

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 200, San Francisco, California 94102-4641  
gavin.newsom@sfgov.org • (415) 554-6141





SIERRA CLUB  
CALIFORNIA

September 14, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SEP 14 2007

**Re: AB 1108 (Ma), Toxic Toys —Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Sierra Club California requests your signature on AB 1108, which would prevent California's children from being exposed to dangerous phthalate chemicals used in baby products.

Phthalates, often used in soft PVC plastic children's toys, have been linked in lab studies to reproductive birth defects, asthma, and hormone disruption. If enacted, California would become the first state in the country to ban the chemicals. The European Union and at least twelve countries have passed bans or restrictions on the use of phthalates in products for small children.

Substances with such negative health effects should not be used in products specifically designed to be put into children's mouths.

Sincerely,

Bill Magavern  
Senior Representative

Cc: Assemblymember Fiona Ma

## **6.iii. Support Letters – Individuals**

S T E V E N S P I E L B E R G

October 11, 2007

*VP  
WS*

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am in the final days of filming on "Indy 4" (you know what that's like) but wanted to weigh in on an issue before you that I understand will be decided in the next several days.

Kate and I have been following with interest the debate surrounding Assembly Bill 1108, legislation that would restrict the use of phthalates in toys and other products for children.

It is our understanding that phthalates are chemicals that can leach out of products and enter the mouths of children, who as any parent knows, are prone to chew on almost anything. Scientists worldwide have linked phthalates to lowered sperm counts, early onset of puberty, testicular cancer and liver problems.

The European Union and 14 other countries have already banned or phased out the use of phthalates in children's products. This legislation is an opportunity for California to take the lead nationally and protect the health of our children.

With all of the toy recalls this summer it is getting more and more difficult to know what is safe for our children. We hope you will sign this important piece of legislation into law and send the right message to parents everywhere.

Sincerely,

