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California State Senate

SENATOR
DR. RICHARD PAN
SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
HEALTH
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
#3 ON HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEES
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
EDUCATION
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HUMAN SERVICES
LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
& RETIREMENT

September 19, 2019

Mr. Julian Leichty
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
Proposition 65 Implementation Program
PO Box 4010, MS-12B
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Mr. Leichty:

We are writing to share our perspectives and concerns regarding the review of acetaminophen currently being undertaken by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). Having reviewed information about acetaminophen and understanding the important role this medicine plays in helping Californians care for themselves and their families, we are concerned about any potential for this medicine to be listed under Proposition 65.

Acetaminophen is one of the most commonly-used drug ingredients in the U.S. – and one that Californians have long relied on for safe and effective temporary relief of fever or minor aches and pains. Its benefits have been recognized by FDA and it is widely recommended by health care professionals for patients [as a pain reliever/fever reducer.] Further, it is an especially important option for certain populations for whom other pain relievers may not be appropriate, such as those living with other chronic health conditions. It also is an alternative for those patients who may not need stronger medications, including opioids, to relieve their pain.

In terms of the science, we understand that acetaminophen is one of the most studied and trusted medicines available today, with more than 250 clinical studies and more than 50 years of real-world use. We also understand that extensive data generated through epidemiologic, genotoxicity, and animal carcinogenicity studies do not support a conclusion that there is a causal relationship between acetaminophen and cancer.

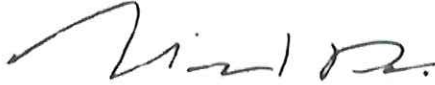
We are concerned that a decision to list acetaminophen under Proposition 65 will cause consumer confusion and could negatively affect how consumers choose and use over-the-counter pain relievers to treat their symptoms. This could push consumers to pain medications



with a less favorable benefit-risk profile for their individual medical need, to an unproven drug, to non-medical options, or to not treating their pain at all.

As the committee proceeds with its review of acetaminophen, we request that serious consideration be given to the long-standing overall safety profile of this medicine and the important role it plays in the lives of Californians.

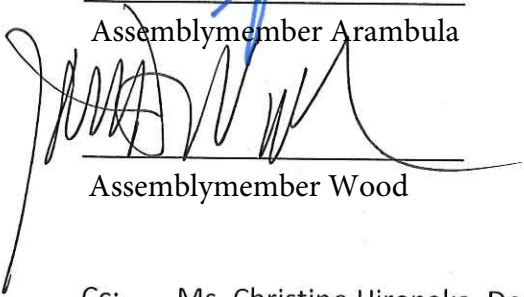
Sincerely,



Senator Pan



Assemblymember Arambula



Assemblymember Wood

Cc: Ms. Christine Hironaka, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor