

Date of Hearing: August 26, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
HR 68 (Reyes) – As Introduced August 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Children’s Environmental Health Month 2021.

SUMMARY: Proclaims October 2021 as Children’s Environmental Health Month and affirms that all children have a right to clean air and water, safer food and products, and healthy environments. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Our children are California’s future and are especially vulnerable to environmental health issues because they are physiologically very different from adults and are in a dynamic state of growth.
- 2) From birth through young adulthood, children experience rapid physiological growth, and their systems absorb more toxins in proportion to their body weight than do adults’ systems.
- 3) All children are affected by environmental hazards because different kinds of pollution can be found throughout our state. Contaminants are transported through many media, including air, water, soil, and food and are absorbed by children when they breathe, drink, eat, and touch the contaminated media. Children’s exposure to these toxins can harm their health.
- 4) Studies performed by the California Air Resources Board found that children exposed to air pollution suffered decreased lung function and development and were more prone to developing asthma and bronchitis, illnesses that can stay with children their entire lives and even shorten their lifespans.
- 5) Another example of an environmental hazard that harms children is lead exposure. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that there is no safe level of lead in children, and the State Department of Public Health reports that lead exposure can cause learning, behavioral, and attention difficulties in children; and, can cause nervous system and organ damage. Exposure to high levels of lead can be fatal.
- 6) It is an established fact that children from low-income communities and communities of color are at disproportionate risk for exposure to environmental hazards.
- 7) The aim of Children’s Environmental Health Month is to raise awareness about the importance of ensuring clean air and water, safe food and consumer products, and healthy environments during a child’s development and beyond.
- 8) Children’s Environmental Health Month is a national and statewide effort supported by individuals, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies, and was first recognized by the California Legislature in 2019.
- 9) Children’s Environmental Health Month encourages individuals and organizations to raise awareness and understanding of children’s environmental health issues, seek improved protections for children, and perform acts of sustainability or environmental health wellness.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Environmental Working Group (Sponsor)
Active San Gabriel Valley
Alliance of Nurses for Health Environments
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
California Brain Tumor Association
California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health
California Public Interest Research Group (CalPIRG)
Californians for Pesticide Reform
Center for Environmental Health (CEH)
Ceres Community Project
Children Now
Clean Water Action
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
Daily Acts
Development of Court Skills Elite
Environment California
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety (FACTS)
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
GMO Science
Heal the Bay
Natural Resources Defense Council
Northern California Recycling Association
Pesticide Action Network North America
Plastic Oceans International
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP)
Santa Clara County Medical Association
Save Our Shores
Seventh Generation Advisors
The 5 Gyres Institute
The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, & Education
University of Irvine Population Health and Disease Prevention
Upstream
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation
Youth Vs Apocalypse
Zero Waste USA

Opposition

None on file

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