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May 22, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriation Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 258 (Lara) – Cleaning Product Right to Know Act of 2017 – Support
As Amended - March 20, 2017

Dear Senator Lara:

The Consumer Federation of California writes in strong support of your legislation, SB 258. This bill will require manufactures of cleaning products to disclose the ingredients in their products to consumers.

Disclosure for cleaning product ingredients is an important issue for consumers and workers, as more and more Americans seek to make conscientious choices regarding those products' impact on their families' health and on the environment. Consumers have the right to know what is in the products they buy.

Labels disclosing ingredients are mandatory for many classes of consumer goods, such as food, cosmetics, and drugs. Yet disclosures are not required for the cleaning products that many consumers are exposed every day, in spite of the fact that some chemicals found in some ordinary household products are known or suspected to have serious health effects.

Mounting evidence links the incidence and severity of cancer, birth defects, asthma, endometriosis, developmental disabilities, and infertility rates to chemical exposure. Yet current law does not require manufacturers to disclose the ingredients in cleaning products. Some companies are starting to list at least a few of the product ingredients on the label, however many ingredients remain hidden under catch-all descriptions, such as “fragrance.”

SB 258 provides a clear set of rules for workers, consumers, and companies on how all ingredients should be listed on the package of the item being sold. Additionally, the bill would require health warnings for any toxic ingredient to be displayed on the product label. Consumers and workers who wish to make informed purchases are often in the dark when it comes to how to choose safe cleaning products. This legislation will ensure that they have the information they need to make educated purchasing decisions.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

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Sincerely,

Richard Holober

Richard Holober
Executive Director

cc: Members and Staff, Senate Appropriations Committee