

March 19, 2024

The Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair Senate Environmental Quality Committee 1021 O Street, Suite 3230 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support: Senate Bill 1308 (L. Gonzalez) - Ozone Safe Air Cleaners Act

Dear Chair Allen and Members of the Committee,

The American Lung Association writes to express our support for Senate Bill 1308 (SB 1308, L. Gonzalez), the Ozone Safe Air Cleaners Act, which would direct the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to adopt regulations to better protect public health from ozone emitted by portable air cleaners. The Lung Association has a long history of engagement on California air cleaner standards and supports SB 1308 to ensure better protections.

Unfortunately, some portable air cleaners produce ozone as a byproduct. Ozone is known to cause significant harm to the respiratory system, causing shortness of breath, asthma attacks, increased risk of respiratory infections, and increased susceptibility to pulmonary inflammation. This bill would update AB 2276 (Pavley, 2006) to set new, more-health protective ozone standards for air filters from the current standard of 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb no later than July 1, 2026. This legislation would ensure that California continues to evolve our air quality programs to better protect health.

This new standard would be informed by recent research conducted by UC Davis, and commissioned by CARB, which recommends "California further reduce ozone emissions from electronic air cleaners by requiring compliance with UL2998, a more stringent ozone emission standard of 5 ppb. This would reduce the allowable indoor ozone emissions by an order of magnitude which would provide a direct health benefit and subsequently reduce secondary formaldehyde and ultrafine particle formation that is driven by ozone chemistry." California must continue to follow the science and set new ozone standards to reduce health harm from portable air cleaners.

For these reasons, we urge your support for SB 1308. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, contact William Barrett at William.Barrett@Lung.org.

Sincerely,

Will Barrett Senior Director

Nationwide Clean Air Advocacy