



September 3, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Request for Signature

AB 841 (Ting) Healthy, Efficient Schools and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the undersigned health and medical organizations, we write to request that you sign Assembly Bill 841 (Ting) into law. AB 841 supports healthier air in California's schools and advances the zero emission transportation infrastructure needed to achieve clean air for all Californians.

Californians face the most difficult air pollution challenges in the United States, with over 98 percent of Californians living in counties affected by unhealthy air. According to the American Lung Association's *State of the Air 2020* report, California cities dominate the lists of most polluted cities in the United States, including seven of the ten most ozone-polluted cities, and six of the most particle-polluted cities in America. Ozone and particle pollution contribute to a wide range of health burdens, including asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes, lung cancer and premature death. Air pollution exposure is linked to greater risk of respiratory infections. Early evidence suggests that exposure to air pollution may make people more vulnerable to COVID-19 infection and may increase the severity of the disease if they get sick. Children, seniors, people with asthma and other health conditions, lower income communities and communities of color face increased risks due to unhealthy air.

Climate change is making it harder to clean our air and protect public health due to extreme heat, increases in ozone pollution, and more frequent and catastrophic wildfires adding to particle pollution burdens. The transportation sector is the leading source of harmful air and climate pollution in California, imposing disproportionate burdens on communities nearest major roadways, ports, warehouses and other hotspots. Immediate and consistent actions must be taken

to clean up the transportation sector through widespread deployment of zero emission vehicles and charging infrastructure.

AB 841 would support children's health through investment in cleaner air systems in California's schools, and advancing zero emission vehicle charging infrastructure deployment opportunities in order to curb harmful air and climate pollution. AB 841 would direct unspent investor owned utility energy efficiency funds to create a 3-year grant program for schools to upgrade ventilation systems, with priority investment at schools in California's most disadvantaged communities. AB 841 also supports the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and ensures utility electrical system upgrades required for infrastructure improvements are available to customers investing in electric cars, trucks and buses.

Our organizations request that you sign AB 841 into law to support making school environments safer and healthier places for children to grow and learn, and to ensure consistent progress in the transition to zero emission technologies needed to achieve clean air and climate standards.

Sincerely,

Barb Sattler, PhD, RN
Co-Founder
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Will Barrett
Clean Air Advocacy Director
American Lung Association in California

Marc Carrel
President & CEO
BREATHE California of Los Angeles County

Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH, Director
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