



March 27, 2024

Senator Ben Allen
Chair, Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1308 (Support)

Dear Senator Allen,

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), I am writing in support of SB 1308, which would direct the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to adopt regulations to protect public health from ozone emitted by portable air cleaners. With the growing threat of wildfire smoke, along with ongoing risks from other sources of air pollution, many people across California are now using air cleaners to improve their indoor air quality and protect their health. If those air cleaners emit ozone or create other chemical byproducts, they are actually putting health at risk.

AAFA is the leading patient organization advocating for people with asthma and allergies, and the oldest asthma and allergy patient group in the world. Over 27 million people in the U.S. have asthma and over 10 people die from asthma every day.^{1,2} It is the leading chronic illness in children and the leading cause of missed school days.³ In California, 12.3% of children and 16.1% of adults have been diagnosed with asthma.⁴

Because of the potential harms of some air cleaners, in 2006, AB 2276 (Pavley) directed CARB to regulate portable indoor air cleaners for ozone safety. That law requires all portable indoor air cleaning devices sold in California to meet an ozone

¹ National Center for Health Statistics. (2023). *2022 NHIS Adult Summary Health Statistics*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://data.cdc.gov/d/25m4-6qqq>.

² CDC/NCHS, Division of Vital Statistics [CDC Wonder](https://wonder.cdc.gov/).

³ Ferrante, G., & La Grutta, S. (2018). The Burden of Pediatric Asthma. *Frontiers in Pediatrics*, 6. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fped.2018.00186>

⁴ California Health Interview Survey (2021). <https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/our-work/california-health-interview-survey-chis>.



emission limit of 50 parts per billion (50 ppb). However, the state's ozone standard for air cleaners established through the 2006 legislation is no longer aligned with current scientific evidence. New scientific research has demonstrated that even extremely low levels of ozone are associated with health impacts, including aggravating asthma, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema. A recent literature review determined exposure to ozone at 5 ppb was associated with an increased risk for asthma-related emergency room visits and hospital admissions.

In a recent report commissioned by CARB, UC Davis researchers concluded, "While California already requires electronic air cleaners have ozone emissions less than 50 ppb, we recommend 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."

SB 1308 would turn this recommendation into reality, thereby improving public health. SB 1308 would direct CARB to adopt regulations to protect public health from ozone emitted by portable air cleaners by reducing the allowable level of ozone emitted from no greater than 50 ppb to 5 ppb. This will improve indoor air quality and reduce health risks.

For these reasons, AAFA is supporting SB 1308. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Mendez
President and Chief Executive Officer
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America