

# San Rafael Chamber

August 26, 2013

Board President Judy Arnold  
Marin County Board of Supervisors  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Ste. 329  
San Rafael, CA 94903

## **Re: Support for Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program in Marin County**

Dear Board President Arnold:

We are writing in support of Marin County implementing a Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program similar to that being implemented in San Francisco and Alameda County.

The mission of the San Rafael Chamber Health and Wellness Resource Group is to promote health related resources and information in order to increase the financial success of businesses and the personal well-being of individuals. We have met with representatives of the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative and support their effort to establish a voluntary compliance program for nail salons in Marin County.

Scientific research such as biomonitoring has established conclusively that exposure to chemicals in the environment is widespread. Chemicals that are often used in nail salons, including dibutyl phthalate, formaldehyde, and toluene, have been linked to many disease endpoints, including cancer and a constellation of negative effects on reproduction and development, as well as serious acute effects such as skin rashes, watery eyes, and breathing difficulties.

Nail salon workers in Marin County, many of whom are immigrant women of child-bearing age, are exposed to these dangerous chemicals every day at their workplaces. Every time a customer, who is sometimes a young girl, enters a nail salon, she is exposed to the same toxic substances.

With cost-effective alternatives already available in the marketplace, there is no reason for potentially dangerous exposures to continue. A Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program (HNSRP) implemented by Marin County would encourage the development of even more and safer choices in nail salon products. San Francisco and Alameda County are already implementing HNSRPs. We believe Marin County is worthy of this program.

Sincerely,



Rick Wells

On behalf of the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce and San Rafael Chamber Health and Wellness Resource Group

Cc: Catherine Porter, California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative, [catherineAporter@gmail.com](mailto:catherineAporter@gmail.com)  
Ariana Meyers, SRCC Health and Wellness resource Group