# **60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

# OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d) (PROPOSITION 65)

Date: November 15, 2024

To: Tom Brennan, Chief Executive Officer, School Outfitters, LLC

California Attorney General's Office;

District Attorney's Office for 58 Counties; and

City Attorneys for San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, Sacramento & Los Angeles

From: Keep America Safe and Beautiful

## I. INTRODUCTION

Keep America Safe and Beautiful is a California nonprofit corporation acting in the interest of the general public, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d). Keep America Safe and Beautiful seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and, if possible, to improve human health by eliminating hazardous substances contained in such items, promoting corporate responsibility.

This 60-Day Notice of Violation ("Notice") is being provided to the alleged violator, School Outfitters, LLC ("Notice Recipient"), as well as the California Attorney General's Office, the District Attorney's Offices for 58 Counties, and City Attorneys for San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, Sacramento and Los Angeles.

Keep America Safe and Beautiful provides this Notice after identifying violations of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq. ("Proposition 65"), based on the failure to provide a clear and reasonable health hazard warning in connection with the sale or use of the products, listed below, in the State of California. The Notice Recipient is hereby given notice they violated and continue to violate Proposition 65 with respect to the warning requirement, codified at California's Health & Safety Code § 25249.6: "No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving a clear and reasonable warning to such individual." Without proper warnings about the toxic effects of exposures to listed chemicals, citizens in California lack the information necessary to make an informed decision as to whether or how to eliminate or reduce their risk of exposure from the reasonably foreseeable use of products containing listed chemicals.

## II. NATURE OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

**<u>Product.</u>** The specific type or category of products ("**Products**") that are the subject of this Notice are as follows:

Exemplar Product	Category/Type	Retailer	Manufacturer/Distributor
Learniture Active	Stools	Amazon.com	School Outfitters, LLC
Learning Vinyl Stool;			-
Item # LNT-			
RIA3052RD-SO; UPC			
# 8 41994 10528 5			

Identified above is a specific example of Products recently purchased and witnessed as being available for sale or use in the State of California, within the *category* of offending products covered by this Notice. The identified retailers, manufacturers and/or distributors of the Products are based on publicly available information.

The Exemplar Product is identified for the Notice Recipient's benefit to assist in its investigation into the alleged violations that are the subject of this Notice. The specific identified Exemplar Product is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all such products potentially in violation of Proposition 65. It is Keep America Safe and Beautiful's position the Notice Recipient is now obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other products within the category or of the type, identified above, that were manufactured, imported, sold or distributed for sale, or that have otherwise been in the Notice Recipient's custody or control during the relevant period, identified below, to ensure the requisite health hazard warnings are provided to individuals in California prior to purchase.

<u>Listed Chemical.</u> The chemical that is the subject of this Notice is the phthalate chemical diisononyl phthalate ("DINP"). The State of California listed DINP as a chemical known to cause developmental cancer on December 20, 2013, and it became subject to the clear and reasonable warning requirements one year later.

Routes of Exposure. The exposures that are the subject of this Notice result from the purchase, acquisition and handling of Products containing DINP. Exposures occur when individuals, including children and women of childbearing age, handle, touch or otherwise utilize Stools containing DINP in accordance with the Products' reasonably foreseeable and intended uses, resulting in exposures through ingestion and dermal absorption. Individuals ingest DINP when they touch or handle the Products, transferring the chemical from their fingers or hands to their mouths. Dermal absorption of DINP occurs when individuals handle, touch, or otherwise utilize the Products in accordance with their reasonably foreseeable and intended uses.

<u>Violations and Time Period of Exposure.</u> Keep America Safe and Beautiful alleges the Notice Recipient knowingly and intentionally exposed, and continues to knowingly and intentionally expose, individuals within the State of California to DINP, without first giving a health hazard warning regarding the chemical's toxic effects, as required by Proposition 65, by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings to consumers and users that the Products can expose users to DINP.

Exposures caused by the use of the Products have occurred each day since the Products were introduced into the California marketplace, but, at a minimum, since November 15, 2023, and, potentially, as far back as November 15, 2021. Because the Products lack clear and reasonable warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to DINP, each Product sold during this period and not accompanied by a warning constitutes a violation by the Notice Recipient and/or other sellers of the Products, whether sold directly through retailers located in, or with locations in, California, via the internet, or through catalog purchases by customers and individuals located in California. Moreover, these exposures are ongoing and will continue either until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to protect consumers and users or until this known toxic chemical is removed from the Products or reduced to allowable levels.

#### III. RESOLUTION OF NOTICED CLAIMS

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65, Keep America Safe and Beautiful seeks to pursue a constructive resolution of this matter to quickly rectify ongoing violations of California law. To that end, based on the allegations set forth in this Notice and pursuant to

Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d), Keep America Safe and Beautiful intends to file a private enforcement action in the public interest sixty (60) days after effective service of this Notice, unless the appropriate public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these allegations. If the Notice Recipient seeks to resolve the claims alleged in this Notice without litigation, they may contact Keep America Safe and Beautiful's counsel at the address listed below.

It should be noted neither Keep America Safe and Beautiful or its counsel can: (1) finalize any settlement until after the expiration of the 60-day Notice period; or (2) speak for the California Attorney General or any District or City attorney in receipt of this Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with Keep America Safe and Beautiful will satisfy its claims, the agreement may not satisfy any public prosecutors.

## IV. GENERAL INFORMATION AND SUMMARY OF PROPOSITION 65

A copy of a summary of Proposition 65's provisions, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("**OEHHA**") is enclosed with the copy of the Notice served on the Notice Recipient for its reference. For further general information concerning Proposition 65, contact OEHHA's Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900.

## V. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d) and Cal. Code. Regs. tit 11, § 3100, a Certificate of Merit is attached hereto. A copy of the Notice and Certificate of Merit is served on the California Attorney General and marked "Attorney General Copy: Contains Official Information Pursuant to Evidence Code Section 1040" with all supporting documentation, as required by Cal. Code. Regs. tit 11, § 3102, attached thereto.

#### VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct all questions, issues or communications regarding this 60-Day Notice of Violation and its potential resolution to Keep America Safe and Beautiful's counsel at the following address:

Keep America Safe and Beautiful c/o Kimberly Gates Johnson, Esq. Seven Hills LLP 4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1400 San Francisco, California 94111

Telephone: (415) 926-7247

Email: kimberly@sevenhillsllp.com

Represented private enforcer's contact

information:

Lance Nguyen, CEO

Keep America Safe and Beautiful

10512 Sycamore Avenue Stanton, California 90680

Telephone: (657) 621-3809

Attachments: Certificate of Merit; Proof of Service; The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary (to Violator only); and Additional Confidential Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only.)

Printed on 100% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper.

## **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d)

Re: Keep America Safe and Beautiful's Notice of Proposition 65 Violations

- 1, Kimberly Gates Johnson, hereby declare:
- 1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged the party identified in the notice violated Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
- 2. I am an attorney for the noticing party.
- 3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action.
- 4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiff's case can be established and that the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.
- 5. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier and (2) the facts, studies or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: November 15, 2024

Kimberly Gates Johnson

## **PROOF OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury:

I am over the age of 18 years of age and not a party to this case. Seven Hills LLP's business address is 4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1400, San Francisco, CA 94111.

On November 15, 2024, I caused to be served the following:

60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d);

THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY; and

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

XXXX by **Certified First Class Mail** through the United States Postal Service by placing true and correct copies of the above documents in a sealed envelope, individually addressed to each alleged violator listed below and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative:

Tom Brennan, Chief Executive Officer School Outfitters, LLC 3736 Regent Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45212 GH&R Business Services, Inc., Agent School Outfitters, LLC 312 Walnut Street, Suite 1800 Cincinnati, OH 45202

On November 15, 2024, I caused to be served true and correct copies of the following documents:

60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d); and

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

XXXX by **First Class Mail** through the United States Postal Service by placing copies of the above documents in a sealed envelope, addressed to each entity on the attached "Service List" and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Representative, with correct postage.

XXXX via **Electronic Mail**, by sending copies of the above documents, addressed individually, to the Recipient listed on the attached "Electronic Mail Service List".

On November 15, 2024, I caused to be served true and correct copies of the following documents:

60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d);

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; and

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT ATTACHMENTS

XXXX via **Electronic Mail**, by uploading the documents, addressed to California Attorney General at their website address, listed under the "Electronic Upload Service List".

Executed on the 15th day of November 2024, at Folsom, California.

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# SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Michael Atwell Alpine County District Attorney P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120 The Honorable Michael Ramsey Butte County District Attorney 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245	Colusa County District Attorney 346 5th Street, Suite 101	The Honorable Todd Riebe Amador County District Attorney 708 Court Street, #202 Jackson, CA 95642 Del Norte County District Attorney 450 H street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531
Oroville, CA 95965  The Honorable Vern Pierson El Dorado County District Attorney 778 Pacific Street Placerville, CA 95667  The Honorable Maggie Fleming Humboldt County District Attorney	Colusa, CA 95932  The Honorable Gilbert Otero Imperial County District Attorney 940 West Main Street, Suite 102 El Centro, CA 92243  The Honorable Donald Anderson Lake County District Attorney	The Honorable Dwayne Stewart Glenn County District Attorney P.O. Box 430 Willows CA 95988 The Honorable Lisa Green Kern County District Attorney
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Sierra County District Attorney 100 Courthouse Square Downieville, CA 95936	Tehama County District Attorney P.O. Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080	Yuba County District Attorney 215 Fifth street, Suite 152 Marysville, CA 95901

# **ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE LIST**

The Honorable Nancy O'Malley	The Honorable Tori Verber Salzar	Honorable Anne Marie Schubert
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Deputy District Attorney	Deputy District Attorney	Deputy District Attorney
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Martinez, CA 94553	San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	Monterey, CA 93940
sgrassini@contracostada.org	edobroth@co.slo.ca.us	Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us
The Honorable Thomas Hardy	The Honorable Phillip J. Cline	The Honorable Clifford Newell
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The Honorable Paul E. Zellerbach	The Honorable Stephan Passalacqua	The Honorable David Hollister
Riverside County District Attorney	Sonoma County District Attorney	Plumas County District Attorney
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The Honorable Walter W. Wall	The Honorable Kimberly Lewis	The Honorable Morgan Briggs Gire
Mariposa County District Attorney	Merced County District Attorney	Placer County District Attorney
P.O. Box 730	550 West Main Street	10810 Justice Center Drive
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Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov	consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov	San Rafael, CA 94903
_		consumer@marincounty.org
	V.	

# ELECTRONIC UPLOAD SERVICE LIST

Office of the California Attorney General
Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting
ATTN: Prop 65 Coordinator
P.O. Box 70550
Oakland, CA 94612-0550
https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice