

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Docket EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0257

Dear Administrator Regan:

As public health, medical and nursing professionals, we write to urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to act immediately to fully restore California's Clean Air Act authority to enact more health-protective standards for passenger vehicles and light trucks.

In order to avoid the worst health impacts of climate change, the nation must take strong, immediate action to reduce climate pollution, and cleaning up transportation is a critical part of that action. The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. From degraded air quality due to higher temperatures to increased risk from wildfires and other extreme weather events, climate change poses serious threats to the health and lives of all Americans, especially children, older adults, low-income communities, communities of color and people living with chronic diseases.

To safeguard the health our patients and the communities we serve, meaningful climate action is urgently needed. Fortunately, the nation has a powerful tool to reduce transportation pollution: the authority California has under the Clean Air Act to set stronger standards to protect its residents from pollution, and of other states to follow those stronger standards. This provision of the Clean Air Act has played a critical role in reducing harmful emissions nationwide.

Together we urge the Biden Administration to quickly finalize recognition of states' authority to enact more protective motor vehicle pollution standards. Beyond restoring California's waiver for greenhouse gases and zero emission vehicle standards, we call on President Biden to work quickly to set strong, ambitious greenhouse gas, criteria pollutant, and fuel efficiency standards for cars, light trucks and SUVs and accelerate the full transition to zero-emission vehicles.

Signed,

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