



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 246 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit, by 2025, the manufacture, distribution, or sale of menstrual products that contain intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at a certain concentration level, as well as limit, by 2027, the concentration of total organic fluorine in menstrual products.

This is one of three single-product chemical bans passed by the Legislature this year that attempt to address serious concerns with the presence of PFAS in consumer products. These bills do not identify or require any regulatory agency to determine compliance with, or enforce, the proposed statute.

While I strongly support the author's intent and have signed similar legislation in the past, I am concerned that this bill falls short of providing enhanced protection to California consumers due to lack of regulatory oversight. Previously enacted single-product chemical bans, which also lack oversight, are proving challenging to implement, with inconsistent interpretations and confusion among manufacturers about how to comply with the restrictions.

In order to instill consumer confidence and effectively address public health and environmental concerns, I am directing the Department of Toxic Substances Control to engage with the author and the Legislature and consider alternative approaches to regulating the use of these harmful chemicals in consumer products.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom