

June 24, 2025

The Honorable Mia Bonta, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Health  
1020 O Street, Room 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Support for SB 646** (Weber Pierson)– Prenatal multivitamins

Dear Chair and members of the Assembly Committee on Health,

Consumer Reports<sup>1</sup> is pleased to support SB 646, which strengthens fetal and maternal health protections by requiring the testing and public disclosure of four toxic metals—arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury—in all prenatal vitamins sold or manufactured in California.

Prenatal vitamins play a crucial role in supplementing the nutritional needs of pregnant individuals, helping to balance birth defects, low birth weight, and pregnancy complications. While a well-balanced diet is ideal, many Americans, including Californians, do not consistently consume adequate nutrients. Consequently, prenatal vitamins, which typically contain folic acid, iodine, iron, and other essential nutrients, are widely recommended and are essential to ensure expecting mothers have the nutrients they need.

However, recent studies have raised concerns about the presence of toxic metals in prenatal vitamins. A report<sup>2</sup> from the General Accountability Office (GAO), published in December 2023, found lead—a heavy metal for which no safe exposure exists—in half of the prenatal vitamins tested. A study<sup>3</sup> from New York University Medical School found lead in all six brands of prenatal vitamins bought in NYC retail stores.

Despite these risks, there are currently no federal or state regulations specifically addressing heavy metal contamination in prenatal vitamins. SB 646 is a necessary step to improve transparency, empower consumers to make informed choices, encourage manufacturers to reduce contamination and lay the groundwork for potential safety standards.

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<sup>1</sup> Founded in 1936, [Consumer Reports](#) (CR) is an independent, nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that works with consumers to create a fair and just marketplace. Known for its rigorous testing and ratings of products, CR advocates for laws and company practices that put consumers first. CR is dedicated to amplifying the voices of consumers to promote safety, digital rights, financial fairness, and sustainability. The organization surveys millions of Americans every year, reports extensively on the challenges and opportunities for today's consumers, and provides ad-free content and tools to 6 million members across the U.S.

<sup>2</sup> [gao.gov/assets/70/64480.pdf](https://gao.gov/assets/70/64480.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10874124/pdf/nihms-1951967.pdf>

For all these reasons, Consumer Reports strongly supports SB 646 and respectfully urges your “aye” vote.

Sincerely,

Brian Ronholm  
Director, Food Policy

Dr. Michael Hansen, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist