

**SAFE JOBS HEALTHY FAMILIES RESOLUTION**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2431-3**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools adopted the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth on April 19, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth states: “Every young person must get what they need when they need it, no matter their actual or perceived race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, mental or physical ability, nationality, immigration status, criminal history, first language, skin color, education status, or wealth. We value the diversity of our children and young adults in Santa Clara County and believe we must treat each of them with respect and dignity”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools adopted other resolutions and supported a variety of efforts focused on creating a healthier and more sustainable environment for Santa Clara County students, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Safe Jobs Healthy Families Initiative is a project of the International Campaign for Responsible Technology, a 501(3)c organization. The project strives to hold electronics industries accountable for chemical harm and exposure to workers’ children, including their educational and life outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the workforce for semiconductor fabrication and assembly in Silicon Valley from the mid-1970s to early 2000s has consistently been mainly of women of childbearing age. The semiconductor industry-sponsored studies of miscarriage conducted in the 1980s found significantly higher rates of miscarriage in “clean room” semiconductor workers versus office workers even though concentrations of clean room chemicals were small fractions of their “permissible exposure limits” set by OSHA<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, federal OSHA formally declared its Permissible Exposure Limits for chemicals non-protective and unreliable<sup>2</sup>. There is evidence that exposure to toxins sufficient to cause miscarriage is also sufficient to cause non-lethal harm to a developing fetus, including without limitation irreparable harm to the developing brain<sup>3</sup>; and

---

<sup>1</sup> Schenker et al “Association of Spontaneous Abortion and Other Reproductive Effects with Work in the Semiconductor Industry” *Amer J of Industrial Medicine* 28:639-659 (1995; Hallock et al “Assessment of Task and Peak Exposures to Solvents in the Microelectronics Fabrication Industry, *Appl. Occup. Environ* Jug 8(110 November 1993; Correa A et al “Ethylene Glycol Ethers and Risks of Spontaneous Abortion and Subfertility: *Amer. J of Epidemiology*, Vol. 143, NO. 7, 1996; Corn, M et al “Real-Time Measurement of Sub-ppm Concentrations of Airborne Chemicals in Semiconductor Manufacturing” *Journal of Exposure Analysis and Environmental Epidemiology*, Vol. 3, Supp. 1, 1993

<sup>2</sup> <http://cen.acs.org/safety/industrial-safety/Former-OSHA-head-David-Michaels/99/i24>

<sup>3</sup> Savaadra-Ontiveros et al “Contaminacion Industrial Con Solventes Organicos Como Causa de Teratogenesis” *Salud Publica de Mexico*, Enero-Febrero de 1996, Vol. 38, no. 1; Savaadra-Ontiveros et al “Teratogenic Effect of Ethylene Glycol-Methyl Cellosolve Mixture in Rats. I. Reproductive Damage” *Int. J. Morphol*, 28(4) 1087-1092, 2010; Rodier

**WHEREAS**, since 1980, California law has required that parental occupation and industry data be recorded as “Confidential Information for Public Health Use Only” on every birth certificate which is thereafter maintained by the California Department of Public Health (DPH). Among other reasons, this information is available to qualified public health researchers in accordance with the law<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the special education services provided by the Santa Clara County Office of Education may maintain confidential information that is protected from disclosure under federal and state law including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g) and Education Code sections 49060 et seq. regarding current and former students with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, to fulfill the objective of the Safe Jobs Healthy Families project in Santa Clara County the project is seeking to secure information regarding maternal employment in electronics/semiconductor manufacturing/assembly among students born in Santa Clara County from and after 1980 who have received special education assistance due to intellectual disability; and

**WHEREAS**, the confidential information that may be maintained by the Santa Clara County Office of Education is protected and cannot be provided even to assist public health researchers with obtaining access to parental occupation data for students with disabilities listed on birth certificates maintained by DPH; and

**WHEREAS**, the Safe Jobs Healthy Families research team is interested in a partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education through which information can be shared with the public for interested families to voluntarily provide their information to the Safe Jobs Healthy Families research team to assist the public health researchers with obtaining access to parental occupation data for students with disabilities listed on birth certificates maintained by DPH; and

**WHEREAS**, the Safe Jobs Healthy Families project prioritizes the confidentiality of individuals and seeks justice for children harmed such that families may agree to voluntarily provide their child’s confidential information directly to the Safe Jobs Healthy Families research team upon learning of this option to participate, the SCCOE can assist in sharing this information with the broader community once the Safe Jobs Health Families research team provides it and identifies the ways in which families can submit their interest in participation in the research directly to the Safe Jobs Healthy Families research team; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools desire to share such information with the broader community to make families aware of the option to voluntarily participate in the research being conducted by Safe Jobs Healthy Communities; and

---

“Developing Brain as a Target of Toxicity” Environmental Health Perspectives Vol. 103, Supp. 6 (Sept 1995) pp. 73-76; Laslo-Baker et al “Child Neurodevelopmental Outcome and Maternal Occupational Exposure to Solvents” Archives of Pediatric and Environmental Medicine, Vol. 158, no 10, Oct. 2004; Khattak, Sohail MD et al “Pregnancy Following Gestational Exposure to Organic Solvents, a Prospective Controlled Study” JAMA, March 24/31 1999, Vol, 281, No. 12 p. 1106-1109

<sup>4</sup> Cal. Health and Safety Code section 102425 (a)(10). California Dept of Public Health Center for Health Statistics and Informatics oversees all aspects of applying for California Birth Data files for research purposes and for protection of confidentiality.

**MAY IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that any participation of the SCCOE shall be consistent with and in full compliance with all applicable laws.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on January 10, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: President Berta, Vice President Rocha, and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Sreekrishnan

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:



---

Maimona Afzal Berta, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



---

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools