

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 625 without my signature.

This measure would prohibit the sale, distribution, or promotion of novelty lighters, as defined. While reducing the risks of accidental fires is important, there is simply no evidence that novelty lighters are any more to blame for incidents of accidental fires than other types of lighters or matches. In addition, this measure would place additional burdens on both state and local authorities at a time of severe budget reductions.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger