

October 20, 2011

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To Whom It May Concern:

The Irlen Institute has 148 clinics in 54 countries and over 7,000 individuals who, for the past 25 years, identify and work with children and adults suffering with headaches, migraines, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, and other physical symptoms. Over the past 25 years, we have seen hundreds of thousands children and adults, all of whom have physical symptoms triggered by fluorescent lights but not incandescent light bulbs.

Our research indicates that for approximately 26% of the population, fluorescent lights trigger physical symptoms and negatively impact attention, concentration, and academic and work performance. The population affected is diverse and varied. There are those who have inherited photosensitivity and those who acquired the condition as a result of head injury, TBI, or a concussion. Many medical and visual conditions, including Lyme's Disease, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, low vision/visually impaired, light-Induced Epilepsy, stroke, Auto Immune Diseases, Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Fibromyalgia and Tourette's Syndrome, have comorbidity with photosensitivity leading to fluorescent lights triggering headaches, migraines, and other physical symptoms.

The educational system recognizes the problems fluorescent lights cause; and states, such as California, include, as a standard accommodation for standardized tests, the ability to take tests in a room with special lighting which includes natural lighting without fluorescent lights (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tq/sa/documents/matrix2012fnl.doc>).

Photophobia is recognized as a medical condition and listed in the DSM Insurance Code under DSM 368.13 Photophobia. As a recognized medical condition, individuals who have photophobia are protected under the American Disability Act (ADA).

I am writing to inform you that 25% of the population have photophobia; and fluorescent lights cause headaches, migraines, fatigue, and other physical symptoms as well as negatively affecting attention, concentration, and performance. These individuals have a right to freedom of choice and should be allowed under ADA to be able to select incandescent lighting. Do not violate these individuals' civil rights.

We have acquired 1,100+ signatures on a petition against the ban of incandescent lighting (copies can be provided upon request). In addition, I would like to refer you to [www.irlen.com](http://www.irlen.com) where 7,800+ people have signed the same petition online.

Further information is available at [www.irlen.com](http://www.irlen.com) as well as from my books, *Reading by the Colors* and *The Irlen Revolution: A Guide to Changing Your Perception and Your Life*.

Colorful wishes,

  
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Board Certified Professional Counselor  
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