

Testimony for Public Hearing  
Select Committee on Children  
February 26, 2012

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H.B. 5218: An Act Concerning Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products

Senator Gerrata, Representative Urban and other distinguished committee members, thank you for this opportunity to address HB 5218.

As a concerned mother of three young children and an informed consumer, I need to add my voice to the fight for a toxic free and safe environment for Connecticut's children. H.B. 5218 is a crucial piece of legislation that will ban toxic flame retardants from children's products sold in Connecticut. Chlorinated Tris flame retardants that were banned in the 1970's from children's pajamas can now be found in children's products currently sold in stores; nursing pillows, changing mattresses, strollers, car seats, etc. One of the Tris flame retardants, TDCPP, is a known human carcinogen. When these chemicals off-gas, they settle in house dust, in fact a recent study showed that TDCPP was found in 96% of dust samples in the Boston area. Children spend most of their time crawling and playing around on the floor where dust settles, which means they are ingesting a higher percentage of flame retardant off gassing.

It is shocking and unacceptable that not only have these toxic flame retardants found their way back into children's products, but that manufacturers are not required to disclose their use of these flame retardants. We have a duty to protect our most precious citizens, our children. Please give your full support to the passing of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this important health issue,

Nicole Rawcliffe