



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
March 1, 2012

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House Bill 5218 - An Act Concerning Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regards to House Bill 5218.

Raised bill 5218 calls for a ban of Tris flame retardants from children's products by October 1, 2014. The group of chlorinated Tris flame retardants mentioned in the bill are associated with carcinogenic activity and damage to internal organs including male testes at high dose. The federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC 2006) assessed the risks from one of the chlorinated Tris retardants in the legislation, TDCPP. Its presence in children's foam products was associated with elevated cancer and non-cancer risks as calculated by CPSC (<http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia07/brief/ufurn2.pdf>). While the data on exposure are limited, the CPSC report provides evidence that children could contact these chlorinated Tris flame retardants via inhalation and dust ingestion. Data from the 1970s indicates that this class of flame retardants can be absorbed across the skin when incorporated into children's sleepwear as evidenced by urine bio monitoring samples. This was an important part of the evidence supporting the ban of Tris from sleepwear at that time. Recent research shows TDCPP to be common in other types of children's products with TCEP and TCPP also detected
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3113369/?tool=pmcentrez#ref20>

In summary, this evidence shows a high potential for children's exposure to toxic chlorinated Tris compounds in foam products that are currently on the market. Therefore, the raised bill touches on a matter of importance to children's health. The State of Washington recently passed a bill banning TCEP from children's products.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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