

February 29, 2012 for the March 1, 2012 Public Hearing

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

To Senator Gerratana, Representative Urban and Honorable Members of the Select Committee on Children,

I strongly urge you to support HB 5218.

As a nurse who has committed more than 34 years to providing nursing and health care to the citizens of the State of Connecticut, I understand the ravages of diseases and conditions like cancer, learning disabilities, ADHD, infertility, asthma, pulmonary disease and so on.

We must do all we can to prevent these diseases.

The presence of known carcinogens in children's products is appalling! The use of certain toxic flame retardants (TDCCP) was banned from children's sleep wear in the 1970's however it is now found in many children's products. Children are exposed to these products that off-gas toxic flame retardants for long periods of time. Exposure to these known carcinogens have long term influences on children's individual and collective health and cost us millions of dollars. We should not expose our children to known carcinogens when safe alternatives are available. The citizens of Europe have figured this out and TCEP is banned there. Canada is considering a ban on flame retardants in children's products and beyond. California's EPA Proposition 65 lists TCEP as a cancer causing agent.

Connecticut has been a leader nationally on legislating bans on toxins such as BPA. We should be a leader among the States in banning toxic flame retardants from children's products. We must protect our vulnerable children. They are our future. They need us all to pay attention to harm that comes their way and eliminate such where possible.

Please consider the long term implications of children's exposures to these toxins not only for each child as an individual but for the broader end-use and disposal implications as well. There is no reason to expose our children and our environment to known carcinogens when there are safe alternatives and no fire-safety benefit gleaned from their use.

Please support this bill.

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