



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

February 21, 2013

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House Bill – #6332 – An Act Concerning Toxic Fire Retardants In Children's Products

The Connecticut Department of Public Health provides the following information regarding House Bill 6332:

This bill would ban the sale of children's products containing three different chlorinated tris fire retardants in products intended for use by children three years of age or younger. The fire retardants are known as tris (1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate (TDCPP or TDCP), tris-(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP), and tris (1-chloro-2-propyl) phosphate (TCPP). These chemicals are used in the polyurethane foam in furniture, and in a variety of other products which include plush toys. TCEP has been identified as a chemical of concern to children in Washington and Maine, and was banned from children's products in New York on December 1, 2013. In the 1970s TDCPP was banned in children's sleepwear nationwide but continues to be allowed in other products.

TCEP and TDCPP are chemicals of concern to children because they have a variety of toxic effects. In rodent studies, both chemicals were found to be carcinogenic. TCEP and TDCPP have been identified in house dust and a child could be exposed directly from the product (e.g., a plush toy), by putting their fingers in their mouth or through skin absorption. Given the current uses of these fire retardants there is a high likelihood for exposure to children. Although there is less toxicology and exposure information available for TCPP, its close structural similarity to TCEP and TDCPP, provides reason for it to be considered a chemical of concern in children's products as cited in a 2012 report from the European Union (SCHER, 2012).

This bill focuses upon chlorinated tris fire retardants without the acknowledgment of other fire retardant chemicals that could be used in children's products. Some of these fire retardant chemicals, such as brominated phthalates and brominated BPA are also associated with toxicological and exposure concerns for children. Additionally, other possible replacement fire retardant chemicals may not be well tested. If chlorinated tris fire retardants are removed from products sold in Connecticut, manufacturers should conduct an alternative assessment that justifies the chosen replacement(s) on the basis of safety and fire retardant efficacy in relation to the chemical that is being replaced and relative to other possible replacements. This alternative assessment should be reported to appropriate state agencies at least six months prior to the intended replacement.

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

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