



Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice

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Good Afternoon members of the Select on Children Committee:

My name is Joe Wasserman and I am a community organizer with Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice or CCEJ. I am here to testify in favor HB 6332, An Act Concerning Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products

In behalf of CCEJ I would like to urge you to pass HB 6332 to protect our children from variations of "Tris" flame retardants, including TCEP and TDCP. TCEP has been linked to nervous system impairment including seizures, brain lesions, memory loss and learning problems. TDCP, which was banned from children's pajamas in the 1970s, has not been fully tested for safety, but existing research does show that it is carcinogenetic, may disrupt hormone levels and is likely to be a neurotoxin. TDCP now shows up in many products, used by caretakers for infants, such as nursing pillows, changing mattresses and bassinets.

What is more, manufacturers do not need to report the use of the of these flame retardants, so parents are kept in the dark as to what their children are being exposed to.

In addition these chemicals off gas, getting into air and house dust. In fact, TDCP has been detected in 96% of the dust collected in the Boston area.

There is an Environmental Justice concern to all of this as well. When these products are disposed of at the end of their useful life, these fire retardant poisons end up being incinerated with the rest of the trash and add to the air pollution burden in largely low income urban communities of color. They end up in our landfills as well, threatening the communities that host these landfills.

Please protect our children and communities by passing HB 6332.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this critical piece of legislation.