



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5900, AN ACT REQUIRING
MORE TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION BY JOHN P. MURPHY
ON BEHALF OF THE CONNECTICUT CITIZEN ACTION GROUP
AND INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS LOCAL 1228 – FEBRUARY 21, 2013

Good afternoon, Senators Bartolomeo and Linares; Representatives Urban and Betts; members of the committee. My name is John Murphy and I am here to testify in favor of **HB 6332, An Act Concerning Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products** on behalf of over 20,000 member families of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1228.

CCAG is concerned about the health of Connecticut citizens and supports common-sense legislation that reduces exposure to harmful chemicals. We are aware of the growing body of research that links exposure to toxic chemicals in many consumer products with serious diseases. The presence of harmful chemicals in children's products is particularly egregious, exposing parents and children to significant health risks.

CCAG believes there is no need for toxic fire retardant chemicals in children's products. Recent reports reveal that deceitful practices of the chemical industry to create the notion that these chemicals save lives and are necessary. We now know that the current California standard, TB 117, has become the defacto standard for most products containing polyurethane foam. TB 117 requires that polyurethane foam laden with these chemicals is able to withstand a small open-flame test.

However, in a fire, the fabric covering the polyurethane foam ignites. Once this happens, the chemicals provide no significant fire-safety benefit. Instead, the smoke from the burning foam is now more toxic than a traditional fire. Death and injury from fire is generally due to smoke inhalation rather than contact with flames. The presence of these chemicals poses a greater risk of injury to parents, children, first responders and fire-fighters.