



Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice

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Written Testimony of Martha Kelly
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Children
February 21, 2013

Testimony in Support of:

House Bill 6332, AN ACT CONCERNING TOXIC FIRE RETARDANTS IN CHILDREN'S
PRODUCTS

Dear Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and honorable members of the Committee on
Children,

Thank you for this opportunity to give testimony. My name is Martha Kelly. I work for the
Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice. I am a member of the Coalition for a Safe and
Healthy Connecticut. I am also a grandmother.

I strongly support HB 6332. This bill addresses several related chemicals variants of "chlorinated tris." One form, TDCPP, was banned in the 70's from children's pajamas because it was found to be carcinogenic. I remember that; my son was a youngster in the 1970's. Now he is in his 40's and has young children of his own.

Why should they be exposed to a chemical we knew was dangerous 40 years ago?

Recent studies of products and furnishings that are intended for children: nursing pillows, nap mats, etc., have found a host of versions of chlorinated tris flame retardants in the products.

<http://www.ceh.org/what-we-do/eliminating-toxics/current-work/flame-retardants/612>

These chemicals linger in our bodies, in our homes, and in the environment. Biomonitoring studies show that we may have chemicals like DDT or PCBs in our bodies decades after the chemical was banned.

I am concerned about flame retardant chemicals becoming the dust in our homes, where we are likely to breathe them. The National Institute of Health studied this in 2010:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20194068>

Children are especially vulnerable. They breathe more air, drink more water, and eat more food than adults, pound for pound. Their organs are still developing.

There is evidence that these chemicals act as endocrine disruptors as well. In 2012 the North Carolina State University and Duke University published results on study of the effects of such chemicals on rats: extreme weight gain and disturbances in glucose metabolism.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121024092954.htm>

These materials do not belong in products to which our tiniest and most vulnerable people are exposed.

I urge you to act favorable on HP 6332.

Thank you,

Martha Kelly