CONNECTICUT NURSES' ASSOCIATION
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TESTIMONY RE: **House Bill 6332,** AN ACT CONCERNING TOXIC FIRE RETARDANTS IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS

Select Committee on Children

February 21, 2013

Good day Senator Bartolomeo and Representative Urban and esteemed members of the Select Committee on Children.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA) related to Children's Health. I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association and professor emeritus from Central Connecticut State University.

I am also a founding member of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut and a founding Member of the National Organization, An Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments.

I speak in strong support of the H.B. 6332 AN Act Concerning Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products. We need to ask ourselves several questions. The first question that needs to be addressed is what is TRIS, and why should it be removed from all Children's Products? The answer is relatively simple.

TRIS is **TCPP (Tris (1chloro-2-propyl) phosphate)**

TCPP is a potential carcinogen, accumulates in the liver and kidneys, and may affect the developing nervous system of infants and children based on cellular and animal studies[2]. TCPP is structurally similar to three chemical compounds that have been identified as causing cancer: TCEP (tris (2-chloroethyl) phosphate), TDCPP/ chlorinated tris (Tris (1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate), and TDBPP/ brominated tris (tris(2,3-dibromopropyl)phosphate)[1,10].

TCPP is a high production volume chemical in the U.S.[3] The demand is growing in part because TCPP is being used as a replacement for its close chemical cousin TCEP (tris (2-chloroethyl) phosphate) which is known to cause cancer[1,2]. TCPP is used with most polyurethane and polyiso building insulation which increase building energy efficiency

and help combat global climate change. TCPP increases the toxicity and cost of these materials without a proven fire safety benefit.

TCPP is an additive chlorinated flame retardant used primarily in building insulation. 2-25% levels in polyurethane and polyisocyanurate panels, blocks, foams and boards[1]
TRIS is also used in flexible foam for furniture and bedding [1,2]

TCPP is a chemical of concern due to its potential for long-range transport, persistence, toxicity, and human exposure. It is found in the air and dust in indoor environments around the world including homes, offices, stores and cars [2,4,5].
It is found globally in wastewater, coastal and marine waters, surface water, drinking water, groundwater, sediment, sewage, soil, landfill leachate, mussels, fish, birds, and at the Arctic and Antarctic [2,6–8]. The real issue is it does not readily break down into non-biologically available chemicals, which means that it is persistent [1].

Most important is we find TRIS In Breast Milk. Which has the potential of entering a child through supposedly healthy nourishment. We inhale it, ingest it and absorb it through our skin. It is found in Children's bedding in our homes and Hospitals.

The second question we must ask is with this knowledge why would we continue to allow this chemical to exist in our environment.
I strongly urge you to support this legislation. It is truly and issue related to protection of the next generation of Connecticut citizens. We own these potential citizens an environment that is healthy and safe to their growth and development. We need to remove TRIS from their products and protect them from potential oncological (cancers) illness.

Thank you
Mary Jane M. Williams PhD., RN

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