

**Statement of**

**Anthony DeGeorge  
Director of Quality Assurance & Compliance  
Fashion Accessories First, Inc.**

**In Support of SB 84  
“AN ACT CONCERNING CADMIUM IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY”**

**BEFORE THE GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE**

**February 18, 2014**

Sen. Doyle, Rep. Baram and members of the General Law Committee, my name is Anthony DeGeorge, Director of Quality Assurance and Compliance at Fashion Accessories First, Inc. We are manufacturers of jewelry for both children and adults. Safety in our factories and our products has always been our top priority.

We support SB 84 because it would harmonize Connecticut's cadmium level for children's jewelry with the nationally recognized standard. As required by federal law, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) already requires every shipment of children's jewelry entering the country be subjected to a rigorous testing protocol by an independent third-party laboratory to ensure compliance with lead limits. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) also tests incoming shipments of jewelry for compliance with the cadmium limits in ASTM 2923-11, the Children's Jewelry Safety Standard, and limits on eight heavy metals in paint and surface coatings. We strongly support the CPSC's recognition that compliance with this national safety standard for children's jewelry will protect the safety and health of our children, and also support their efforts to police the marketplace for compliance.

Compliance with existing regulation and science-based standards such as ASTM F2923-11 ensures the safety of children's jewelry in a manner supported by the CPSC. Further regulation is redundant and unnecessary. Scientific studies by the CPSC rejected adoption of any total content limit; mandating a 75ppm limit for cadmium in jewelry does not enhance the safety of products, since compliance with the ASTM F2923-11 standard for cadmium establishes health-protective limits that are also consistent with similar approaches in the now mandatory toy safety standard, ASTM F963. Keep in mind that every time you add a new and different state regulation you add to the cost of products, which will reduce employment and limit consumer choices of safe products over time.

We not only require that our suppliers comply with the instructions contained on our purchase orders that clearly require that only component parts that comply with chemical limits may be used in production of our products, we also test product arriving at our borders. This system is designed to double-check compliance with CPSIA and requirements of ASTM F2923-11.

The industry welcomes the effort to harmonize standards, ensuring safety while being sensitive to cost. I urge the Committee to pass SB 84.