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Children's Committee

In Support of HB 5354 AAC CHEMICALS of HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN

March 6, 2014

Good Afternoon Representative Urban, Senator Bartolomeo, Senator Duff, Representative Fawcett and other members of the Children's' Committee. My name is Alexandra Ferreira. Today, I am here as a mother and a concerned citizen. I would like to thank you for raising HB 5354 AAC CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN..

This bill is so straight forward that it should be passed without any opposition and without much debate. I encourage this committee to place children's well being ahead of corporate profits and deceptive headlines. We simply **have the right to know** what chemicals are being used in our children's products.

There is growing evidence that many commonly used chemicals are harmful and dangerous to people and the environment. Industries that cater to children use them in their products and do not disclose that information voluntarily. As parents, teachers and concerned citizens, we have the right to know and will fight to have transparency and access to such information.

Personally, I will not buy any product that is not properly labeled. I know this practice to be a growing trend in the country. Scientific research strongly links the rising incidences of diseases such as Autism Spectrum Disorder with early life exposure to chemicals. Unfortunately, corporations who sell us products laced with dangerous chemicals continue to deny that there is a problem. I have a nephew who is Autistic. It is a tremendously difficult situation.

We have heard the opposition. We know their arguments. But we know better. Tobacco for example, kills. Yet, as you know, the tobacco industry has spent billions trying to convince us of the opposite. We have the right to know.

I am certain that this committee will vote to protect our children. I know you will not side with the feeble argument the industry continuously makes on the issue. This bill is not too expensive, it will not put them out of business and it will not impact the bottom line. I am confident you will side with our children.

Thank you for your support.