

**Testimony of
Environment and Human Health, Inc.**

By
Nancy Alderman, President

Bill 6806

AN ACT CONCERNING TOXIC FLAME RETARDANTS IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS. Raised Bill 6806

Senator Dante Bartolomeo Representative Diana Urban and Members of the Committee on Children

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is pleased to be in strong support of Bill 6806.A Bill that will remove toxic flame-retardants from infant and young children's products.

The United States needs to rethink its policies on the uses of flame-retardants. These policies are outdated and pose a significant risk to human health, especially to our smallest children.

The history of flame-retardant use in the United States is a story of substituting one dangerous flame-retardant for another. When one toxic flame retardant is banned another toxic one is put in its place.

Flame-retardants are in all of our blood and urine. They are able to cross a pregnant mother's placenta and therefore they get into the cord blood of fetuses. The ensuing baby gets another dose of flame-retardants through nursing on the mother's milk. Children have 4-5 times the level of exposures to flame-retardants as adults.

When a baby is brought home from the hospital it is placed on a crib mattress that contains flame retardants, and has its diapers changed on a changing table that contains flame retardants, as do the nursing pads, infant seats, and all the products that the infant uses in the early stages of its life.

Fame-retardants are not benign chemicals. Some are neuro-toxic, some are hormone disrupters and some affect the thyroid gland. Some flame-retardants that are found in infant products have been shown to be carcinogenic.

Firefighters are also at risk from flame-retardants. They have been shown to have 3 times the levels of flame-retardants in their blood as the general public.

All of these flame retardant chemicals are proving just too dangerous to be used in all situations.

Because of the risks that flame retardants pose to both health and the environment, the wisest policies for flame retardants should be that they only be used in "high-fire-risk" situations, such as in airplanes, cars, trains, etc.

On the other hand, they should not be used in "low-fire- risk" situations where the risk for flame-retardant exposures outweighs the risk from fire.

Environment and Human Health Inc. EHHI, has written a comprehensive 107-page report, "Flame Retardants: The Case for Policy Change," where the health risks that flame-retardants pose are laid out, and sweeping policy changes are recommended. That report can be found at <http://www.ehhi.org/flame/>

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
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