

Testimony of
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
By
Nancy Alderman, President

Bill 5299

AN ACT CONCERNING TOXIC FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS AND FURNITURE.

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

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is pleased to support Bill 5299

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 The policies are outdated and pose a significant risk to human health, especially to our smallest children.

Although Environment and Human Health, Inc.(EHHI) is pleased to support this Bill -- the Bill does not go far enough to protect our smallest children from the effects of harmful flame retardants.

Restricting the following is a good thing -----

"TDCPP" and "TDCP" mean tris (1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate;

"TCEP" means tris (2-chloroethyl) phosphate; and

"TCPP" means tris (1-chloro-2-propyl) phosphate.

however the reason it does not solve our problems is because 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. This is our concern and why EHHI wanted all flame retardants removed from infant products except for their car seats - not just Tris. Tris flame retardants were deemed carcinogenic in the 1970's and should never have been allowed in infant products after that. Forty-five years later wev are still working to get them out of children's products.

Flame-retardants can be found in all 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.

Flame-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 and certainly not in our smallest children's products.

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/>

Thank you for your attention,

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
March, 2016