

March 2, 2016

**Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health in
Support of HB 5404: An Act Concerning Toxic Flame Retardant
Chemicals in Children's Products and Furniture**

The Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH), comprised of Connecticut's local health directors, works to strengthen public health throughout the state. To that end, we write in strong support of the HB 5404 to prevent the manufacture, sale and distribution of products containing flame retardant chemicals.

Studies show that additive organohalogen flame retardants migrate out of products and into our homes, putting all of us, but especially our children, at risk for very serious adverse health effects. Fetuses and newborn infants are especially at risk from exposure to these toxic chemicals because their brains and organ systems are in a critical developmental window. The science shows that these toxic flame retardants are associated with neurodevelopmental impacts, including reduced IQ, cancer, reproductive impairments, endocrine disruption and more. It makes no sense to permit the sale of household products made with toxic chemicals that put the public at risk of serious illness or impairment.

Fire safety is important but there is no good evidence that use of organohalogen flame retardants in consumer products actually improves safety in the event of a fire. In contrast, there is strong and mounting evidence of the risks posed by exposures to these toxic chemicals.

Our communities are at risk from continued exposure to these toxic chemicals in our environment. We strongly support this petition to ban the manufacture, distribution and sale of products that contain flame retardants chemicals.

Thank you for taking steps to protect the nation's public health.