

**Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT
Public Hearing, March 2, 2016 Before The Public Safety & Security
Committee in support of HB5404 An Act Concerning Toxic Flame
Retardant Chemicals In Children's Products & Upholstered
Residential Furniture**

**Joyce Acebo~Raguskus, Chair Diesel Cleanup, Environmental
Concerns Coallition, CLEAN WATER ACTION, Advocate, Coalition For
A Safe & Healthy CT, 350CT, Former E.M.T, Stratford Ambulance
174 Eastern Parkway, Milford, Connecticut 06460**

**Thank you for this privilege to speak before you regarding this
important health and safety bill.**

**My name is Joyce Acebo~Raguskus of 174 Eastern Parkway, Milford,
CT and Chair of Diesel Cleanup, E.C.C., a long time advocate with
CLEAN WATER ACTION, Coalition For A Safe & Healthy CT.**

**I'm 'shouting fire' here today in support of HB5404 An Act Concerning
Toxic Flame Retardant Chemicals In Children's Products &
Upholstered Residential Furniture.**

**For starters, flame retardant do not prevent fires. The outdated
flammability standard known as TB117 Technical Bulletin in fact does
not provide significant fire safety benefits. According to government
and studies, on the contrary, when household products burn
containing such flame retardants, the fire tends to produce more
smoke, more soot, and more toxic gases!**

**We have learned that flame retardants bromine or chlorine, chemicals
known as organohalogens, are indeed toxic and well documented
with high risk health impacts, to our families, especially our little
ones, often interfering with hormonal function in that they act as
'endocrine disrupting chemicals' of naturally occurring hormones.
Carried through the umbilical cord from the mother to the fetus,
especially during critical times of rapid growth and brain
development, can result in genetic modifications that are passed
down through generations. Further alarm on this burning health
issue is, it is associated with reduced IQ, cancer, reproductive,
neurological problems, and more.**