NFIB
The Voice of Small Business

CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)

CONCERNING

HB-5329, AAC THE USE OF FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS IN CHILDREN’S PRODUCTS AND
UPHOLSTERED RESIDENTIAL FURNITURE

BEFORE THE
CHILDREN’S COMMITTEE
MARCH 6, 2018

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut’s and the nation’s leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to “Main Street” small businesses to single-person “Mom & Pop” shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB’s mission is “To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses.” On behalf of those small- and independent-job-providers in Connecticut, NFIB/Connecticut offers the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut has significant concerns with HB-5329 and suggests rejection. While the goal of protecting public health and children is something we can all agree upon, NFIB/Connecticut is concerned that this legislation is overly broad and could actually work against public safety by potentially prohibiting chemicals that are safe and effective, as well as stifle the future development of such products.

NFIB/Connecticut is concerned that establishing these types of chemical prohibitions would set Connecticut further apart from other states from a competitiveness standpoint. The end result of this type of legislation could further imperil struggling manufacturers and product producers here in Connecticut all the way down the supply chain and increase the overall cost of doing business and impact many small businesses (e.g. manufacturers, contractors, repairers, retailers, etc.) along the way. Additionally, small business owners are concerned that this type of legislation is a first step that could ultimately result in possible additional frivolous lawsuits (i.e. product liability claims and/or other potential legal exposure).

Finally, NFIB/Connecticut suggests that from a broader policy perspective, including Constitutional and economic considerations, the federal government is better positioned and has more resources to properly address the issues presented in this bill. Therefore NFIB urges lawmakers to take no action on HB-5329 at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.