Written Testimony of Jose Perez, BSN, RN
For the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Children,
March 6, 2018
In Support of HB 5329 AAC the Use of Chemical Flame Retardants in Children’s Products and Residential Upholstered Furniture

My name is Jose Perez, and I am a resident of Southington, a parent, a nurse and a former volunteer firefighter.

I write in SUPPORT of HB 5329, An Act Concerning the use of Chemical Flame Retardants in Children’s Products and Residential Upholstered Furniture. This bill would prohibit the sale and distribution of children’s products and upholstered residential furniture containing organohalogen flame retardant chemicals, including, but not limited to, chemicals containing the element bromine and chlorine bonded to a carbon that is added to a plastic, foam or textile.

These chemicals may only provide minimal protection and the increase of chemicals used in furniture and plastics make the smoke extremely toxic when these items burn, thus increasing the risks to firefighter and residents.

How it is possible that chemicals of such high concern have been banned from children’s pajamas but are allowed to remain in items that children sleep, play and nurse on?

I am proud that our state legislators have chosen to be leaders in addressing the issue of chemicals in children’s products and I hope that they will continue to move toward a safer, healthier Connecticut by passing HB 5329 this session.

Thank you.

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