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

Bill 7197  

AN ACT CONCERNING LABELING AND RESTRICTING THE USE OF FLAME RETARDANTS.  
To label consumer products containing flame retardants and to restrict the use of flame retardants in children's products.  

To the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Senator Mary Abrams, Representative Jonathan Steinberg, Ranking Members Senator Somers and Representative Petit, Vice Chairs Senator Lesser and Representative Young and Members of the Committee:  

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is in strong support of Bill 7197  

It is extremely important to get toxic flame retardants out of infant and children's products - with an exemption for children's car seats-- as well as labeling consumer products as to whether they contain chemical flame retardants or not.  

1. Children have 4-5 times the level of exposures to flame-retardants as adults due to their small body size.  

2. The flame retardant known as "Tris," was used in children's pajamas in the 1970s until it was declared a carcinogen and was banned from children's pajamas in 1977. However "Tris," is now widely used in other baby products. According to a 2011 study looking at the presence of various flame retardants in baby products, "Tris" was the most common flame retardant added to infant products other than Pajamas.  

4. Flame-retardants cross the placenta and therefore get into the cord blood of fetuses. The ensuing baby gets another dose of flame-retardants through the mother's milk. And then the infant gets exposed again because most infant products, such as their mattresses, changing tables, nursing pillows, baby carriers, and car seats all contain toxic flame retardants.  

5. The flame retardant story is one of substituting one harmful flame retardant for another - and then that one ends up equally harmful. This continues because flame retardants are poorly tested, if tested at all, before they enter the market.
place. Some flame-retardants are neuro-toxic, some are carcinogenic, some are hormone disrupters and some affect the thyroid gland.

6. Penta BDE was widely used in the 1980's, substituting and earlier one that was found harmful - then it was phased out in 2005 because it too was found harmful to health. It was found to be bioaccumulative, affect the thyroid gland, the immune system and had the ability to be a neurotoxin. Now FireMaster 550 has replaced it. NIH has found Firemaster 550 to be an endocrine disrupter. It has not been tested for its ability to cause cancer, affect reproduction or neurological development.

7. Flame retardants should only be used in “high-risk” situations, such as airplanes, cars, trains - which is why we are asking for an exemption for children's car seats.

8. Products that contain flame-retardants are not labeled - therefore consumers have no way to protect themselves or their children from flame-retardant exposures. Consumer products need to be labeled as to whether or not the product contains a chemical flame retardant.

Thank you for your attention,
Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
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