Testimony of Michelle Seagull  
Commissioner of Consumer Protection  

Public Health Committee  
Public Hearing, February 25, 2019  

H.B. 6516 “AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS IN CHILDREN’S PRODUCTS AND UPHOLSTERED RESIDENTIAL FURNITURE”

Senator Abrams, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg, Representative Petit and Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony about H.B. 6516, An Act Concerning the Use of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Children’s Products and Upholstered Residential Furniture.

This proposed legislation would prohibit the sale and distribution of children's products and upholstered residential furniture containing flame retardant chemicals.

The Department of Consumer Protection has worked jointly with the Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on this important issue for several years. We issued information to consumers, with the help of Trinity College’s environmental science students and faculty and Clean Water Action, about the proven dangers of certain flame retardant chemicals.
While DCP commends the goals of this bill, current agency staffing levels and fiscal constraints will make it impossible to implement within existing resources.

We are happy to further discuss this bill and potential other alternatives to address this issue without incurring a state fiscal impact with the proponents. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input about House Bill 6516. Please contact our Legislative Director, Leslie O’Brien, if you have any questions.