

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support to HB 27. My name is Samarys Seguinot Medina. I am a scientist and public health professional. But primarily I'm a mother and grandmother.

I thought it would be relevant and important for this hearing to remember former Dr. David M. Heimbach who failed to disclose his ties to the flame retardant chemical industry.

He testified at least three times in Juneau between 2010 and 2012 against bills to restrict chemicals proven to be hazardous, especially to children.

Washington medical board reported that Heimbach invented tragic stories of children burn victims in his testimony to Alaska and other states. Heimbach fabricated testimony and falsely presented himself as an unbiased burn expert when, in fact, he was on the payroll of the manufacturers of chemical flame retardants. Washington state officials said that he had been paid \$240,000 for his help.

Chemical industry is paying people to give false testimony. This is an example of the deceptive tactics that the chemical industry uses for their own benefit without any consideration of the harm they can cause to people, especially children who are the most vulnerable.

Is our duty and responsibility as citizens and public servants to care for our children and provide, ethically and respectfully, the protection they need so they can thrive and grow in a safe and healthy environment. I support HB 27 and I want to thank Rep. Tarr and Rep. Josephson for working for the well-being of our children.

References:

Toxic Hot Seat documentary. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3212404/>

TOXIC HOT SEAT takes an in-depth look at a nexus of money, politics and power – and a courageous group of firefighters, mothers, journalists, scientists, politicians and activists as they fight to expose what they assert is a shadowy campaign of deception that has left a toxic legacy in America's homes and bodies for nearly 40 years.

Set against the backdrop of the award-winning 2012 Chicago Tribune investigative series Playing with Fire, TOXIC HOT SEAT tells an intricate story, detailing how chemical companies that produce flame retardants spend millions of dollars on lobbyists, publicists and influencers, and how Big Tobacco had a hand in convincing fire-safety officials to back a standard that, in effect, requires all furniture to be filled with toxic flame retardants.

Investigative Report from Chicago Tribune: Playing with Fire.

<http://media.apps.chicagotribune.com/flames/index.html>