



Alaska Nurses Association

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January 25, 2016

Senator Bill Wielechowski
State Capitol Room 419
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Wielechowski,

We are writing on behalf of the Alaska Nurses Association in strong support of SB 111: "An Act relating to flame retardants and to the manufacture, distribution, and sale of products containing flame retardants; and providing for an effective date." This bill will ban the ten worst chemical flame-retardants used in children's products and furniture in our state.

The ill-health effects of exposure to chemical flame-retardants are well-documented and researched. Harmful impacts include development disabilities, thyroid function impairment, miscarriages, birth defects, and cancer. Persistent exposure contaminates fish, wildlife, and people. Simply put, flame retardants are harmful to the health of our Alaska environment, our neighbors, and our children.

This is a tremendous opportunity to make a difference to future generations of Alaskans. The more scientists look, the more they are finding negative impacts even at very low levels of exposure to toxic chemicals. Prenatal exposures to PBDEs at levels commonly found in households have been shown to be associated with adverse neurodevelopmental effects in young children.

Fortunately, there are safer, economically viable alternatives available. This means Alaskans won't have to sacrifice their health – and will help make Alaska a healthier, less toxic place to live and raise a family for generations to come.

We sincerely thank you for your advocacy on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Arlene Briscoe, RN-BC
Legislative Chair
Alaska Nurses Association

Jane Erickson, RN, CCRN
President, Board of Directors
Alaska Nurses Association

The Alaska Nurses Association strongly endorses SB 111, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as healthy and productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

The Alaska Nurses Association serves to advance and support the profession of nursing. The Alaska Nurses Association's core purpose includes working for improvement of health standards and promoting access to health care services for all Alaskans.