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CANCER PREVENTION  
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**SAN FRANCISCO  
FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 798  
PRESIDENT:**  
THOMAS P. O'CONNOR

January 27, 2016

Dear Senator Costello, Chair of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee; Members of the Committee; and Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

My name is Tony Stefani. I am a retired Captain with the San Francisco Fire Department. I am also the founder and current President of the San Francisco Fire Fighters Cancer Prevention Foundation.

I am pleased to offer my strong support for SB 111, the Toxic-Free Children's Act, a bill that would phase out ten harmful chemicals found in children's products and furniture; and require labelling. I had the privilege of traveling to Juneau to meet with legislators in your capitol, present at a lunch and learn last spring and in conjunction with a public showing of the documentary film, *Toxic Hot Seat*. You have an extraordinary opportunity to pass an important measure to protect public health and the health of firefighters with this bill by preventing exposures known to cause harm.

The toxic flame retardants covered in this bill are associated with health effects including intellectual deficits and developmental disabilities, certain cancers, endocrine disruption, and reproductive harm. Flame retardants are not effective in preventing fires yet they make fires exceedingly more toxic, off-gassing highly corrosive gases such as hydrogen bromide, carbon monoxide, fine particulates and soot, as well as dioxins and furans. These toxic gases permeate our protective gear. Firefighters have 60% higher levels of the PBDE flame retardants in their blood than the general population of the U.S. Fire fighters have a personal and professional interest in this issue because studies have shown that firefighters are at a much greater risk of getting cancer and other diseases associated with toxic exposures than the rest of the U.S. population. Because of the high occupational hazards that we face in our profession, we've advocated for protective chemicals policy legislation at the state and national level. That is why I travelled to Juneau last spring to meet with you and why I am sending this letter in support of SB 111.

Thank you for your consideration. Please take this opportunity to pass SB 111 and lead the way toward protecting children and firefighters.

Sincerely,

Tony Stefani  
President, San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation