



ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 200 Juneau, Alaska 99801

(907) 586-1325 Fax (907) 463-5480

www.alaskafirechiefs.org

March 5, 2018

Representative Geran Tarr
State Capitol Room 126
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative Tarr,

On behalf of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association I am writing to give our support to HB 27; "An Act relating to chemicals that are of high concern for children and to the manufacture and sale of products containing certain flame retardant chemicals; relating to an interstate chemicals clearinghouse; adding an unlawful act to the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act; and providing for an effective date."

Study after study have concluded that organohalogen flame retardant chemicals are a leading cause of cancer in firefighters. These products are used throughout today's households in furniture and other materials. When these flame retardants burn they release toxic cancer causing chemicals such as dioxins and furans which firefighters are then exposed to. The elimination of organohalogen flame retardant chemicals will go a long way to provide a less toxic atmosphere for our firefighters and help reduce their exposure to these toxins.

The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association on behalf of all firefighters in Alaska want to thank you for introducing HB 27 and we support its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Tucker", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Tucker, President
Alaska Fire Chiefs Association



NATIVE VILLAGE OF GAMBELL

P.O. BOX 90 • Gambell, Alaska 99742
Telephone: (907) 985-5346 • FAX: (907) 985-5014

Native Village of Gambell

03/07/2018

Dear Co-Chair Representatives Tarr and Josephson and Members of the House Resources Committee:

We are submitting this letter in support of HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act, a bill that would protect the health of Alaska's children by preventing exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. If passed, these bills will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. The legislation will also require the labelling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals.

Chemical flame retardants are widely used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. These harmful chemicals are found in toys, nap mats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, carpet padding, and upholstered furniture foam. Under current federal law, these toxic chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety. Yet, these chemicals pose a serious public health threat, are particularly toxic to children, and do not provide a fire safety benefit. They have a range of harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm. Alaska Native people are more highly exposed to persistent, bioaccumulative chemicals, including many toxic flame retardants that contaminate our traditional foods. People of the north are also likely to be more highly exposed to harmful flame retardant chemicals that contaminate our indoor air and household dust. We also call your attention to the Alaska Federation of Natives Resolution 15-17 that passed in support of this legislation at the 2015 AFN Convention, the largest representative annual gathering in the United States of any Native peoples.

Our children are vulnerable to exposure and toxic health effects of these chemicals. We need to enact legislation to phase out harmful flame retardant chemicals from children's products and furniture. Fortunately, fire safety can be achieved without these toxic chemicals because there are safe, economical, and effective alternatives to toxic flame retardants.

Because of the lack of meaningful chemicals policy reform at the federal level, it is the responsibility of our Alaska State Legislature to take action in passing the Toxic-Free Children

Act (HB 27) to protect the health of our children and our future generations. We urge you to support passage of HB 27 during this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,


Eddie Ungott, President of NVG



SERVING THE
VILLAGES OF:
BREVIG MISSION
COUNCIL
DIOMEDE
ELIM
GAMBELL
GOLOVIN
KING ISLAND
KOYUK
MARY'S IGLOO
NOME
SAVOONGA
SHAKTOOLIK
SHISHMARF
SOLOMON
STEBBINS
ST. MICHAEL
TELLER
UNALAKLEET
WALES
WHITE MOUNTAIN

March 8, 2018

Dear Co-Chair Representatives Tarr and Josephson and Members of the House Resources Committee:

We are submitting this letter in support of HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act, a bill that would protect the health of Alaska's children by preventing exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. If passed, these bills will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. The legislation will also require the labelling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals.

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Our children are vulnerable to exposure and toxic health effects of these chemicals. We need to enact legislation to phase out harmful flame retardant chemicals from children's products and furniture. Fortunately, fire safety can be achieved without these toxic chemicals because there are safe, economical, and effective alternatives to toxic flame retardants.

Because of the lack of meaningful chemicals policy reform at the federal level, it is the responsibility of our Alaska State Legislature to take action in passing the Toxic-Free Children Act (HB 27) to protect the health of our children and our future generations. We urge you to support passage of HB 27 during this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,



Melanie Bahnke
President



ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 111222 ANCHORAGE, AK 99511
North Pole – Fairbanks – Shemya – Anchorage – Juneau – Ketchikan
www.alaskapffa.org



March 6, 2018

Representative Geran Tarr

State Capital Room 126

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative Tarr,

I am writing today in support of HB 27 High-Risk Chemicals for Child Exposure. The Alaska Professional Fire Fighters support this bill and encourage passage. HB 27 would work to ban chemicals proven to be dangerous to firefighters and the community such as PBDE flame retardants.

Our organization represent 500 firefighters across Alaska. They face all types of dangers in the line of duty. While we cannot eliminate all risk, but we have an obligation to ensure our firefighters work in the safest environment possible. Eliminating dangerous chemicals that offer little benefit goes a long way toward achieving a safer work environment.

It is no secret that cancer is a big concern for firefighters. The data exists that shows we experience cancer at much higher rates than the public. Much of this is attributed to absorption of carcinogens during fire fighting operations. When Flame retardants burn large amounts of cancer causing dioxins and furans are released and absorbed and inhaled by firefighters. Recent studies have shown firefighters have three times the level of these harmful chemicals in their systems after a fire. Eliminating these flame retardants would be a step in the right direction.

Alaska should follow the lead of many states and manufactures who have eliminated the use of these harmful chemicals that offer little if any benefit. The Alaska Professional Fire Fighters support HB 27 and encourage passage.


Thomas A. Wescott

President Alaska Professional Fire Fighters



Representative Geran Tarr
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 5, 2018

Dear Representative Tarr:

On behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), I would like to thank you for your dedication to protecting the health of all Alaskans through your work on House Bill 27 regarding toxic flame retardant chemicals.

Cancer prevention is a critical element of the mission of ACS CAN. Primary prevention, which has traditionally focused on factors such as tobacco use, nutrition and physical activity, and sun exposure, can also include understanding and minimizing cancers related to human exposure to toxic substances and pollutants. Relative to your HB27, exposure to various flame retardant chemicals has been found to have serious health effects. Studies have linked exposure to carcinogenic, mutagenic, and neurotoxic effects.

Further, exposure to flame retardant chemicals is widespread. Exposures occur because flame retardant chemicals, typically contained in upholstered furniture, migrate out and into air and dust where they are inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into our bodies. Presence of these chemicals has resulted in a daily, life-long exposure that no one escapes; of special concern are exposures to pregnant women, children and firefighters. ACS CAN supports this legislation. I look forward to Alaska joining other states that have taken action on flame retardant chemicals to protect the public.

Sincerely,

Emily Nenon
Alaska Government Relations Director
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network



Dear Co-Chair Representatives Tarr and Josephson and Members of the House Resources Committee:

We are submitting this letter in support of HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act, a bill that would protect the health of Alaska's children by preventing exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. If passed, these bills will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. The legislation will also require the labelling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals.

Chemical flame retardants are widely used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. These harmful chemicals are found in toys, nap mats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, carpet padding, and upholstered furniture foam. Under current federal law, these toxic chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety. Yet, these chemicals pose a serious public health threat, are particularly toxic to children, and do not provide a fire safety benefit. They have a range of harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm. Alaska Native people are more highly exposed to persistent bioaccumulative chemicals, including many toxic flame retardants that contaminate our traditional foods. People of the north are also likely to be more highly exposed to harmful flame retardant chemicals that contaminate our indoor air and household dust. We also call your attention to the Alaska Federation of Natives Resolution 15-17 that passed in support of this legislation at the 2015 AFN Convention, the largest representative annual gathering in the United States of any Native peoples.

Our children are vulnerable to exposure and toxic health effects of these chemicals. We need to enact legislation to phase out harmful flame retardant chemicals from children's products and furniture. Fortunately, fire safety can be achieved without these toxic chemicals because these are safe, economical, and effective alternatives to toxic flame retardants.

Because of the lack of meaningful chemicals policy reform at the federal level, it is the responsibility of our Alaska State Legislature to take action in passing the Toxic-Free Children Act (HB27) to protect the health of our children and our future generations. We urge you to support passage of HB 27 during this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Robert Keith

Native Village of Elim President



First Lady Donna Walker
Honorary Chair

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz, *Chair*
Tiisa Northcutt, *Vice Chair*
Julie Woodworth, *Treasurer*
Elsie Boudreau, *Secretary*
Ginger Baim, *Past Chair*
Susan Anderson
Melanie Bahnke
Deborah Bitney
Gregory Deal
Michael Hanley
Carley Lawrence
José Luis Martinez
Sherry Modrow
Joy Neyhart
Ramona Reeves
Marcus Wilson
Lisa Wimmer



March 7, 2018

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

Alaska Children's Trust's vision is all children in Alaska grow up in safe, stable and nurturing communities. We support House Bill 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act that would protect the health of Alaska's children by preventing exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. Passing, this bill will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. The legislation will also require the labelling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals.

Toxic flame retardants are widely used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. These harmful chemicals are hidden in toys, nap mats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, carpet padding, and upholstered furniture foam. Under current federal law, these toxic chemicals are virtually unregulated for safety. These chemicals pose a serious public health threat, are particularly toxic to children, and do not provide a fire safety benefit. They have a range of harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm.

Our children are vulnerable to exposure and toxic health effects of these chemicals. We need your help to enact legislation to phase out harmful flame retardant chemicals from children's products and furniture. Fire safety can be achieved without these toxics because there are safe, economical, and effective alternatives to toxic flame retardants.

Because our children lack meaningful protection from chemicals at the federal level, the Alaska State Legislature can take action, to pass the Toxic-Free Children Act (HB 27) to protect the health of our children and our future generations. We urge you to support passage of HB 27 during this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Trevor J. Storrs
Executive Director

Pathology Associates
2801 DeBarr Road
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 264-1171 phone (907) 264-1702 fax

March 5, 2018

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

We are submitting this letter in support of HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act that would protect the health of Alaska's children by preventing exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. If passed, these bills will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. The legislation will also require the labeling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals.

Chemical flame retardants are widely used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. These harmful chemicals are found in toys, nap mats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, carpet padding, and upholstered furniture foam. Under current federal law, these toxic chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety. Yet, these chemicals pose a serious public health threat, are particularly toxic to children, and do not provide a fire safety benefit. They have a range of harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm.

Our children are vulnerable to exposure and toxic health effects of these chemicals. We need to enact legislation to phase out harmful flame retardant chemicals from children's products and furniture. Fortunately, fire safety can be achieved without these toxic chemicals because there are safe, economical, and effective alternatives to toxic flame retardants.

It is the responsibility of our Alaska State Legislature to take action in passing the Toxic-Free Children Act (HB 27) to protect the health of our children and our future generations. We urge you to support passage of HB27 during this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Syn Ching Lim

Syn Ching Lim, HTL (ASCP)

Dear Members of the House Resources Committee:

I teach psychology courses at a university, and my wife teaches pre-school children in Anchorage. As persons involved in education, we believe it is very important to create and maintain a safe environment where healthy development of the brain can occur without influence of various harmful chemicals. Therefore we believe it is very important to reduce children's exposures to toxic chemicals.

Flame retardant chemicals are known to have harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm. These chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety, yet are widely used in products we bring home to our children. The Toxic-Free Children Act(HB 27) is an opportunity to take a huge step forward in protecting the health of Alaska's children by preventing exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. HB 27 will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. We need to enact legislation to phase out harmful flame retardant chemicals from children's products and furniture. Fortunately, fire safety can be achieved without these toxic chemicals because there are safe, economical, and effective alternatives to toxic flame retardants.

Because of the lack of meaningful chemicals policy reform at the federal level, it is the responsibility of our Alaska State Legislature to take action in passing the Toxic-Free Children Act (HB 27) to protect the health of our children and our future generations. Thank you, Representative Tarr and Drummond, for your consideration and leadership on this important public health issue. We urge representatives of the House resources committee to support passage of HB 27 during this legislative session.

Sincerely,
Yasuhiro Ozuru Naomi Ozuru
Yasuhiro and Naomi Ozuru

8901 Winchester Street Anchorage AK 99507

Phone 907-519-5599



SIVUQAQ, INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 101 ~ GAMBELL, ALASKA 99742

Telephone: (907) 985-5826 ~ Fax: (907) 985-5426

Email: sivuqaq@gci.net or sivuqaqregistrar@yahoo.com

Registrar Telephone: 985-5003

March 6, 2018

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

Sivuqaq, Incorporated is writing this letter in support of HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children's Act that would protect the health of Alaska's children by preventing exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. If passed, these bills will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and furniture. The legislation will also require the labeling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals.

Chemical flame retardants are widely used in children's products, carpeting and furniture. These harmful chemicals are found in toys, nap mats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, carpet padding, and upholstered furniture foam. Under current federal law, these toxic chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety. Yet, these chemicals pose a serious public health threat, are particularly toxic to children, and do not provide a fire safety benefit. They have a range of harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm.

Our children are vulnerable to exposure and toxic health effects of these chemicals. We need to enact legislation to phase out harmful flame retardant chemicals from children's products and furniture. Fortunately, fire safety can be achieved without these toxic chemicals because there are safe, economical, and effective alternatives to toxic flame retardants.

It is the responsibility of our Alaska State Legislature to take action in passing the Toxic-Free Children Act (HB 27) to protect the health of our children and our future generations. We urge you to support passage of HB27 during this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Erika Apatiki
Manager
Sivuqaq, Incorporated



NORTHERN ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY
College of Engineering & Natural Sciences

Biological Sciences

Northern Arizona University
PO Box 5640
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5640

928-523-2381
928-523-7500 fax
neu.edu/cens

March 7, 2018

Dear Representatives Josephson and Tarr,

I am writing in support of HB 27. I am a professor of ecotoxicology at Northern Arizona University, and formerly at the University of Alaska. I have studied flame retardant chemicals, as well as other classes of contaminants, throughout Alaska for many years. I would like, in particular, to draw your attention to the work we have conducted on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, funded by the National Institutes of Health. We found particularly high levels of PBDE flame retardant chemicals in the environment around the village of Gambell, and we found that levels of certain PBDE chemicals in the blood serum of St. Lawrence Island residents were associated with changes to thyroid hormone levels. PBDEs are known to disrupt thyroid function, which poses a particular risk for the fetus and young children. Therefore, to the extent that legislation can reduce exposures of children and pregnant women to these chemicals, such legislation will promote the health and wellbeing of Alaskans. This is especially important for thyroid-disrupting contaminants such as PBDEs because thyroid hormones are critical to brain development, as well as to many other health outcomes. Please let me know if I may provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank von Hippel'.

Frank von Hippel
Professor

UNITE HERE LOCAL 878

530 E. 4th Avenue • P.O. Box 100564 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510

(907) 272-6591 • 1-800-478-4373 • Fax (907) 277-8595

Health/Legal Information: call (800) 325-6532 or (907) 561-5119

March 6, 2018

Pension Information: call (800) 452-4155

Dear Co-Chairs Tarr and Josephson and Members of the House Resources Committee:

We are submitting this letter in support of HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act, a bill that would protect the health of Alaska's children, families, firefighters, and our workers by preventing exposure to harmful flame retardant chemicals. We thank Representative Tarr for her sponsorship of this important legislation. If passed, this bill will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. The legislation will also require the labelling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals.

Chemical flame retardants are widely used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. These harmful chemicals are found in toys, nap mats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, carpet padding, and upholstered furniture foam. Under current federal law, these toxic chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety. Yet, these chemicals pose a serious public health threat, are particularly toxic to children, and do not provide a fire safety benefit. They have a range of harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm.

We are concerned about the safety of chemicals in everyday products that are used in our homes and workplaces. We now have definitive scientific evidence that links exposure to chemical flame retardants with serious health outcomes. These factors are eroding consumer confidence. At the same time, studies show that there is no proven fire safety benefit when using these chemicals. In 2017, the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued guidance to manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers, and consumers to protect the health of consumers, especially children, from exposure to organohalogen flame retardant chemicals found in infant or toddler products, upholstered furniture, mattresses and mattress pads, and plastic casings of electronics. The Commission also called upon manufacturers to eliminate this toxic class of chemicals in these products, and for retailers to obtain assurances from suppliers that products don't contain them. There is an important and urgent need for state legislation to ensure the safety of these products while the Commission is proceeding with a lengthy rulemaking.

FAIRBANKS
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(907) 452-2332

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(907) 780-4844

KENAI/SOLDOTNA
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(907) 260-3060

KETCHIKAN
AREA OFFICE
1-800-478-4373

KODIAK
AREA OFFICE
(907) 486-4561

VALDEZ
AREA OFFICE
(907) 835-2391

We support HB 27 because this legislation provides an opportunity to ensure that our workers and their families have good information and safe products and working environment. The legislation will help us better serve our members and the community.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge you to please pass HB 27 to protect the health of Alaska's children, firefighters, and our families.

Sincerely,


Marvin Jones

President

Unite Here Local 878

Anchorage, AK



The Arc of Anchorage
2211 Arca Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

T: (907) 277-6677
F: (907) 272-2161
www.thearcofanchorage.org

Sponsor: Rep. Geran Tarr
Co-Sponsor: Rep. Harriet Drummond
State of Alaska House of Representatives

March 6, 2018

Dear Rep. Tarr and Rep. Drummond:

The Arc of Anchorage understands House Bill 27 is coming to a hearing later this week on March 9 and on behalf of The Arc, I am submitting this letter to support the Toxic-Free Children Act, also known as HB 27. The Arc agrees it is important to protect Alaska's children by preventing unhealthy exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. If passed, the bill will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. The bill requires labelling of such products to inform consumers if products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals as well.

Chemical flame retardants are widely used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. These harmful chemicals are found in toys, nap mats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, carpet padding, and upholstered furniture foam. Current federal law allows these toxic chemicals to be unregulated for their safety. These chemicals are a serious public health threat and are particularly toxic to children. These chemicals have a range of harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm.

Children are vulnerable to exposure with negative health effects due to the chemicals. The Arc urges our state to protect our children by requiring non-toxic materials and products to be used/sold that are safe, economical, and effective alternatives to toxic flame retardants. The Arc of Anchorage encourages all Alaskan lawmakers to support passage of HB 27 this legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important public health issue. Should you have any questions about The Arc's support on this matter, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rodriguez-Rath, MSW
Chief Executive Officer

brath@thearcofanchorage.org | 907.777.0127

Achieve with us.

March 7, 2018

Opik Ahkinga
Environmental Coordinator
Native Village of Diomed
P.O. Box 7079
Little Diomed, Alaska 99762
dio.env103@yahoo.com

Co-Chair Representatives Tarr and Josephson
House of Resources Committee Members
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Representative Tarr and Josephson and Members of the House of Resources Committee:

My name is Opik Ahkinga. I am the Environmental Coordinator for the Native Village of Diomed. The goal of the Native Village of Diomed is to continue to build capacity to manage an environmental program to reduce solid waste generation and to educate the community of negative impacts to the people, land, air, and the Alaskan ocean. An important part of my job focuses on Children's Environmental Health. Children are vulnerable to harmful household chemical products. We need to help our children develop and understanding of environmental health, by engaging them to make healthier choices for creating a safer living environment. In 2017, the Diomed EPA Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP), established the first time ever Inaliq Youth Committee. DIO IGAP provides technical assistance with youth members by online research, hands-on activities of making safe household products, conducting community litter clean-ups, and by sharing public outreach.

Economic growth continues to increase impacts and brings issues to our tiny isolated community. Just like the rest of the world, Diomed locals purchase new materials, resulting in solid and hazardous waste pollution. All trash on Diomed is burned, bringing bad toxic smoke into the sky; what doesn't burn ends up into the ocean. Therefore, we are contributors of climate change and ocean acidification. All products that add the chemical flame retardants are used in our homes, workplaces, health clinic, and schools as well. Little do many moms and family members know that the toys babies put into their mouths contain toxic flame retardants. Toddlers have higher levels of chemicals in their bodies because they are exposed to these toxins. Do babies and children know that chemicals products in their everyday lives have a negative effect to their health?

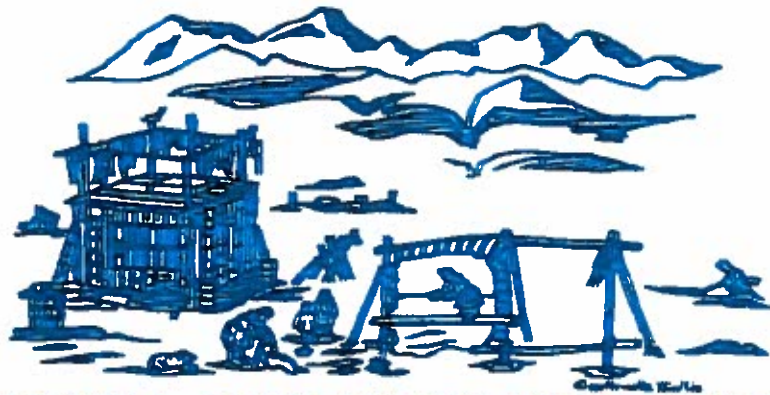
Continuing to manufacture chemical flame retardants in our children's household products are threatening lives. I ask the Alaska State Legislature to support HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act, to protect the health of our children. I strongly believe that if you support this bill you will impact many lives.

Let's achieve proper health care for our future leaders...the Children.

Sincerely,



Opik Ahkinga
Environmental Coordinator
Native Village of Diomed



NATIVE VILLAGE OF SAVOONGA- P.O. BOX 120, SAVOONGA, AK 99769 • PHONE 907-6414 • FAX 907-6027

Native Village of Savoonga

March 06, 2018

Dear Co-Chair Representative Tarr and Josephson and Members of the House Resources Committee:


We are submitting this letter in support of HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act, a bill that would protect the health of Alaska's children by preventing exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. If passed, these bills will prevent the manufacture, sales, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. The legislation will also require the labelling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals.

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Our children are vulnerable to exposure and toxic health effects of these chemicals. We need to enact legislation to phase out harmful flame retardant chemicals from children's products and furniture. Fortunately, fire safety can be achieved without these toxic chemicals because there are safe,

economical, and effective alternatives to toxic flame retardants.

Because of the lack of meaningful chemicals policy reform at the federal level, it is the responsibility of our Alaska State Legislature to take action in passing the Toxic-Free Children Act (HB 27) during this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important public health issue.

Sincerely, 

Delbert Pungowiyi, President

March 7, 2018
Representative Geran Tarr
Alaska State Legislature
Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov

Dear Ms. Tarr:

I support HB 27 which is intended to protect the children in Alaska from exposure to flame retardants typically applied to children's clothing such as pajamas. I am pleased that you have taken this initiative. I am personally very aware of the impact of these exposures because I was involved in research funded under the National Toxicology Program before I arrived in Alaska in 1979. I also worked an additional summer in 1980 at the same Oregon Health Sciences Center in the Pharmacology Department. I have a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry and my training allowed me to train many chemistry majors and to set up the ASET Lab at UAA. I have since retired because of the program reductions in the Chemistry Department.

I was a co-author on four publications involving the metabolism and distribution of the flame-retardant compounds used in children's clothing in rodent models. The compounds are readily absorbed through the skin especially in the abdominal area and then they are metabolized mainly by the liver. These halogen-based organophosphates rapidly breakdown to produce free radicals which then bind to DNA and RNA leading to errors in the biological code and are potentially mutagenic and carcinogenic. Their properties are what make them a good source of free radical ions which react with oxygen to terminate the combustion mechanism. Halo-organic compounds were also used to terminate potential explosions on the North Slope of Alaska until it was found that the halo-organics being used were involved in ozone reduction in the stratosphere. As to children's clothing, there are other material designs that can reduce combustion but once the compounds were introduced to retard combustion it became a cheap way to meet the fire codes. Actually millions of children were exposed to toxic compounds who really should never should have been. The long-term implications are likely to not be known for some time.

I am including my Vita in which the first few publications include the studies of these compounds.

Thank you for your courage in taking this step forward. Please make this letter available to all members of the Alaska State Legislature and to the Governor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Kennish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John M. Kennish
kennish@live.com

Holly Kent
8211 Wisteria St.
Anchorage, AK 99502

March 7, 2018

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

I am submitting this letter in support of HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act that would protect the health of Alaska's children by preventing exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. If passed, this bill will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. The legislation will also require the labeling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals.

Chemical flame retardants are widely used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. These harmful chemicals are found in toys, nap mats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, carpet padding, and upholstered furniture foam. Under current federal law, these toxic chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety. Yet, these chemicals pose a serious public health threat, are particularly toxic to children, and do not provide a fire safety benefit. They have a range of harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm.

Our children are vulnerable to exposure and toxic health effects of these chemicals. We need to enact legislation to phase out harmful flame retardant chemicals from children's products and furniture. Fortunately, fire safety can be achieved without these toxic chemicals because there are safe, economical, and effective alternatives to toxic flame retardants.

It is the responsibility of our Alaska State Legislature to take action in passing the Toxic-Free Children Act (HB 27) to protect the health of our children and our future generations. We urge you to support passage of HB27 during this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Holly Kent', with a stylized, cursive script.

Holly Kent



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii

Representative Tarr
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Bill 27

March 2nd, 2017

Dear Representative Tarr,

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, I write today to thank you for your leadership and for sponsoring HB 27, which would regulate toxic chemicals in children's products. Promoting healthier families is a priority that we all share, and it's time that the state of Alaska took this important step towards eliminating dangerous toxins from our everyday lives.

Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading reproductive health care provider and strongly supports policies that positively impact all aspects of peoples' reproductive health and wellness. An increasing number of studies indicate that toxins, or "chemicals of high concern," can lead to serious adverse reproductive health and fertility outcomes. Exposure to chemicals, particularly during critical windows of development such as fetal growth, have been linked to decreased fertility, sexual dysfunction, and increased risks of prostate and breast cancers later in life.

Developing infants, children, pre-teens and teenagers are also particularly vulnerable. Exposure to even small amounts of toxic substances during important developmental windows can lead to disease early in life, later in life, or even across generations. Toxic substances that build up in children's bodies can affect their health and future pregnancies long after they've been exposed. Therefore, HB 27 is good for all Alaskans – whether or not they have children, are pregnant, or want to have children in the future.

It's time we protected everyone, especially low-income communities, from the health havoc being caused by toxic chemicals in everyday household products. Low-income families are less likely to have access to health insurance or quality, affordable care to prevent or treat health issues that arise from toxic children's products. And while some people are able to buy all-natural products and avoid the health problems that toxic chemicals cause, that's a luxury that low-income families don't have.

We need policies that identify existing toxic substances, phase out their use and replace them with alternatives that are safer for Alaska's families. The threats to public health from inaction are too great to ignore. Our children deserve to inherit a safe and healthy world. HB 27 puts Alaska one step closer to securing a healthier future for our youth.

Sincerely,

Alyson Currey
Regional Field Organizer and Legislative Liaison

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawaii
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907.957.8708 | Alyson.Currey@ppvnh.org



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

Senior and Disabilities Services
Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special
Education
Patrick J. Reinhart, Executive Director

3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Main: 907.269.8990
Fax: 907.269.8995

March 8, 2018

RE: Letter of Support for HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act

Dear Co-Chairs Tarr and Josephson and Members of the House Resources Committee:

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the "Council") fills a variety of federal and state roles, including serving as the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. As the state DD Council, the Council works with Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) and other state agencies to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports that they need, as well as participate in the planning and design of those services. One of the duties of the state DD Council is providing comments on bills that may have an impact on individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families.

To this end, the Council would like to issue this letter of support for HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act, a bill that would protect the health of Alaska's children and families by preventing exposure to toxic organohalogen flame retardant chemicals found in children's products and upholstered furniture. The Council extends its sincere appreciation to Representative Tarr for sponsoring this important public health legislation.

We are aware that the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued the following warning in 2017 about products containing organohalogen flame retardant chemicals.

"The known adverse health effects of these chemicals to consumers include: reproductive impairment (e.g., abnormal gonadal development, reduced number of ovarian follicles, reduced sperm count, increased time to pregnancy); neurological impacts (e.g., decreased IQ in children, impaired memory, learning deficits, altered motor behavior, hyperactivity); endocrine disruption and interference with thyroid hormone action (potentially contributing to diabetes and obesity); genotoxicity; cancer; and immune disorders. These chemicals have a disproportionately negative health effect on vulnerable populations, including children."

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified harmful flame retardants in bodies of more than 90% of Americans. Exposure to flame retardants is associated with adverse health effects such as cancer, miscarriages, premature births, neurological and developmental delays, and respiratory problems.

This provides significant justification for the Alaska State Legislature to enact HB 27. It should be noted that sixteen states are considering policies in 2018 to ban toxic flame retardants: Alaska, Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

We urge the House Resources Committee to pass HB 27 because prevention of neurodevelopmental and other adverse health effects is key to our mission. Thank you for your careful consideration of this critical public health measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maggie Winston', with a stylized, somewhat abstract flourish at the end.

Maggie Winston, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Art Delaune', with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Art Delaune, Legislative Chair