



ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
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April 4, 2019

Representative Geran Tarr
State Capitol Room 126 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative Tarr,

On behalf of the Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association I am writing to express our support of HB 27 The Toxic Free Firefighters and Children Act. 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. 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.

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

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Miranda".

Paul Miranda
Southcentral Vice President
Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association