

## House Bill 27 Letters of Support

### Index of Letters of Support

1. Lindsay Stovall
2. Sally McLaughlin
3. Theresa Bartoldus
4. Patricia Byrne
5. Veri Di Suvero
6. Thomas Fly
7. Jim Farrell
8. Mark Giese
9. Jacica Kim
10. Joan McBeen
11. Kengo Nagaoka
12. Nana Paldi
13. Christin Swearingen
14. Susan Vogt
15. Jill Wittenbrader
16. Alicia Sidebottom
17. JoAnn Lesh
18. Kathleen Whitson
19. Karel Hauser
20. Anne Fuller
21. Heather Aronno
22. Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association
23. Alaska School Nurses Association
24. Alaska Children's Trust
25. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
26. Alaska Fire Chief's Association
27. Alaska Nurses Association
28. AKPIRG
29. Kawerak Inc
30. Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education
31. Carl Propes

**From:** [Stovall, Lindsay](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Grier Hopkins](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Chris Tuck](#); [Rep. David Talerico](#); [Rep. George Rauscher](#); [Rep. Sara Rasmussen](#)  
**Subject:** HB 27 (Flame Retardants) - ACC Opposition Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 11:00:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [AK HB 27 - ACC Opposition Testimony House Resources Committee April 2019.pdf](#)

---

Dear Co-Chairs Lincoln and Tarr and Members of the House Resources Committee:  
Attached is an opposition letter from the American Chemistry Council regarding HB 27. Thank you in advance for the opportunity to share our views. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Lindsay Stovall

---

**Lindsay Stovall** | American Chemistry Council  
Director, State and Regulatory Affairs

[REDACTED] | Sacramento, CA | 95814

[www.americanchemistry.com](http://www.americanchemistry.com)

+++++ This message may contain confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee do not disseminate, distribute or copy this email. Please notify the sender immediately by email if you have received this email by mistake and delete this email from your system. E-mail transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. The sender therefore does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message which arise as a result of email transmission. American Chemistry Council, 700 – 2nd Street NE, Washington, DC 20002, [www.americanchemistry.com](http://www.americanchemistry.com)

**From:** [Sally McLaughlin](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** HB27  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 1:46:49 PM

---

Dear Representative Lincoln,

I am writing to express my full support for the passage of the Toxic Free Firefighters and Children Act. PFAS have become one of the biggest threats facing all members of society, and flame retardants especially affect our vulnerable children and our first responders who come in direct contact with these dangerous chemicals. Flame retardants in furniture, carpeting, children's clothing, etc are extremely detrimental to the health of our firefighters, our children and our environment.

Please adopt the same fortitude that the Anchorage Assembly showed in passing their version and allow us to have a unified stance throughout Alaska. Let Alaska be the leaders for the rest of the nation!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sally McLaughlin  
Gustavus AK

**From:** [Theresa Bartoldus](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 6:18:40 PM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Theresa Bartoldus  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Patricia Byrne](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 6:11:51 PM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Patricia Byrne  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Veri di Suvero](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 6:07:02 PM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Veri di Suvero  
Executive Director  
Alaska Public Interest Research Group

Sincerely,  
Ms. Veri di Suvero  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Thomas Ely](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 7:42:08 AM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I have a career firefighting friend who contracted cancer and is lucky to be alive today. I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Thomas Ely  
[REDACTED]  
Haines, AK 99827  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jim Farrell](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 8:24:30 AM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Jim Farrell  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Mark Giese](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 6:17:40 PM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Mark Giese

[REDACTED]  
Racine, WI 53403  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jacica Kim](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 10:44:13 AM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment and do not provide any proven fire safety benefits.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Jacica Kim

Sincerely,  
Miss. Jacica Kim  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99504  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Joan McBeen](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 9:00:15 AM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
President of the Joan McBeen  
[REDACTED]  
Tenakee Springs, AK 99841  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kengo Nagaoka](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 11:13:57 AM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Kengo Nagaoka  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Nana Paldi](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 7:21:44 PM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Nana Paldi  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99707  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Christin Swearingen](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 8:43:00 PM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am a scientist- I have a master's degree in Natural Resources Management from UAF, and wrote a thesis on bioremediation of diesel. I think the best thing to do for our state is to ban toxic pollutants before they get into our environment.

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Christin

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Christin Swearingen

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99507

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Susan Vogt](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 4:40:10 AM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Susan Vogt  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99712  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jill Wittenbrader](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 8:57:19 AM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Jill Wittenbrader

[REDACTED]

Kodiak, AK 99615

[REDACTED]



---

**From:** [Alicia Sidebottom](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27!!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 6:50:57 PM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27!!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear House Resources Committee members,

Please pass HB27! It is important that the dangerous toxic chemicals found in flame retardants can't harm the health of Alaskans. Many other states have already banned these toxics, and we should join them! Now that Anchorage has passed an ordinance to ban them, I think its important that everyone in the state can be free of these negative health effects. As a resident in Fairbanks, I definitely would want these toxic flame retardants banned in my community as well.

Thank you, and please pass HB27!

Sincerely,

Alicia Sidebottom

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Alicia Sidebottom  
[REDACTED]  
Palmer, AK 99645  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [JoAnn Lesh](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. John Lincoln](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#)  
**Subject:** Toxic-Free Firefighter and Children Act (HB27):ban toxic flame retardant chemicals in Alaska  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 7:42:56 PM

---

Dear Representative,

In 2012, The 26th Legislature mourned the loss of Representative Carl Gatto. He was a retired Anchorage Firefighter who valiantly battled prostate cancer during his entire Legislative service. Fire gear and flame retardants in the PFOA chemical family are implicated for prostate cancer.

In the name of former Representative Carl Gatto, a hero and boss to me, please ban toxic flame retardant chemicals in Alaska.

JoAnn Lesh  
Gustavus, Alaska

**From:** [Kathleen Whitson](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 5:19:13 PM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kathleen Whitson  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Karel Hauser](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 4:37:35 PM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: Pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Karel Hauser  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Anne Fuller](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. George Rauscher](#); [Rep. David Talerico](#); [Rep. Chris Tuck](#); [Rep. John Lincoln](#); [Rep. Grier Hopkins](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Sara Rasmussen](#)  
**Subject:** Commenting in favor of HB 27  
**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 9:18:40 PM

---

To the members of the House Resources Committee

Thank you for reading these comments on Toxic-Free Firefighter and Children Act (HB 27). I urge you to pass this bill which will help create healthy Alaskan communities free of exposures to toxic flame retardants. The dangerous chemical are shed from furniture and other items, then remain in our houses.

We can phase out classes of harmful chemicals and thus avoid interfering with our children's futures. The bill is specific to chemicals containing an organohalogenated flame retardant, organophosphorous flame 21 retardant, organonitrogen flame retardant, or nanoscale material-based flame retardant. There are known risks when people are exposed to these chemicals.

Yes, I am repeating myself, as this issue has concerned me for several years. I recall that someone appeared before another session and was saying what the chemical manufacturers wanted him to say. (That was David Heimbach who surrendered his Washington state medical license when his testimony was discredited).

We need to regulate the sale of dangerous materials, especially in furniture and gear for children. Protecting our fire-fighters is in our own best interests.

I hope the committee takes prompt action to push this bill forward.

Anne Fuller

[REDACTED]

Juneau Alaska

**From:** [Heather Aronno](#)  
**To:** [Rep. John Lincoln](#)  
**Subject:** I urge you to pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 4:11:46 PM

---

John Lincoln  
Alaska Leg

RE: I urge you to pass HB27 to protect our children and firefighters!

Dear John Lincoln,

Dear members of the House Resources Committee,

I am deeply concerned about the health effects of toxic chemical flame retardants on Alaskan children and firefighters. These chemicals are associated with miscarriages, premature births, cancer, developmental harm, and neurological impairment.

I thank co-chair Geran Tarr for her leadership in supporting HB 27 which would phase out classes of harmful chemicals from interfering with our children's futures.

I urge members of the House resources committee to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic flame retardants by voting to pass the bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
President Heather Aronno  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
[REDACTED]



**ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**  
PO Box 111222 Anchorage, AK 99511  
North Pole – Fairbanks – Shemya – Anchorage – Juneau – Ketchikan – Sitka  
[alaskapffa.org](http://alaskapffa.org)



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.

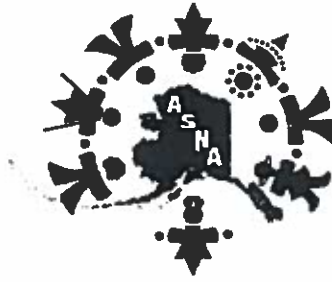
Much of this is attributed to absorption of carcinogens during fire fighting operations. When flame retardants burn, large amounts of cancer causing dioxins and furans are released and absorbed and inhaled by firefighters. Recent studies have shown firefighters have three times the level of these harmful 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 that reads "Paul Miranda".

Paul Miranda  
Southcentral Vice President  
Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association





*Alaska School Nurses Association*

3701 E. Tudor Road; Suite 208  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
(907) 274-0827

March 2019

The Alaska School Nurses Association strongly supports efforts by the Alaska Legislature to ban toxic flame retardants in all children's products. We hope that 2019 will be the year that legislation removing these harmful chemicals will finally be passed.

School nurses closely follow issues affecting the health of our youth. We recognize the documented harmful effects of flame retardants, including developmental disabilities, thyroid function impairment, birth defects and cancer. Persistent exposure contaminates fish and wildlife and these toxins can accumulate in the food chain. We strongly support efforts at both the state and municipal level in Alaska to ban these substances.

Fortunately, there are safer, economically viable alternatives to toxic flame retardants. Please consider and pass legislation that will help make Alaska a healthier place in which to live and raise a family.

Sincerely,

*Patty Barker  
Carol Asp  
Danielle Kern  
Kathy Easley  
Krista Grilliot  
Caddie Haese  
Annette Johansen  
Barbara Pennington*

Board of Directors,  
Alaska School Nurses Association  
<https://alaskasna.nursingnetwork.com/page/43601-board-officers>

April 2, 2019

Rep. Geran Tarr  
Alaska State Legislature



Dear Rep. Tarr:

Alaska Children's Trust's vision is all children in Alaska growing 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 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 should take action to pass the Toxic-Free Children Act (HB 27) to protect the health of our children and our future generations.

Thank you for sponsoring HB 27, Rep. Tarr. Thank you for your efforts and leadership on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Trevor Storrs  
President and CEO



Representative Geran Tarr  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

February 21, 2019

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 Alaska citizens through your work on HB 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, also includes understanding and minimizing cancers related to human exposure to toxic substances and pollutants. Relative to your HB 27, exposure to various flame-retardant chemicals has been found to have serious health effects. According to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, exposure to many of these chemicals has been associated with adverse health effects including cancer, endocrine and thyroid disruption, impacts to the immune system, reproductive toxicity, adverse effects on fetal and child development and neurologic function.

Exposure occurs because flame retardant chemicals are often added or applied to upholstered furniture, foam, mattresses, carpets, curtains, electronics, construction materials and transportation products. The chemicals migrate out and into air and dust where they are inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into our bodies. Many toxic flame retardants have been removed from the market or are no longer produced. However, because they do not easily break down, they can remain persistent in the environment for years. They can also build up in people and animals over time.

In addition to firefighters, children may be particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of these chemicals, because their brain and other organs are still developing. Hand-to-mouth behavior and proximity to the floor increases the potential of children to be exposed to flame retardants. Researchers have found that children have higher concentrations of flame retardants in their bodies than adults. ACS CAN supports this ordinance. 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



## **ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION**

One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 200 Juneau, Alaska 99801

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

[www.alaskafirechiefs.org](http://www.alaskafirechiefs.org)

---

April 2, 2019

To: Members of the Alaska State Legislature

From: Jeff Tucker, Immediate Past President Alaska Fire Chiefs Association

Reference: Alaska State Legislative bill (HB 27) "Toxic-Free Firefighter and Children act"

The Alaska Fire Chiefs have been working with our State Legislators over the past few years and Representative Tarr most recently to pass legislation to ban ineffective and harmful flame retardant chemicals. We whole heartily write in support of this bill.

The Alaska fire service tragically can point to two recent firefighter deaths that can be linked back to the work they did as firefighters. Battalion Chief Phil Rounds, University Fire Department, and Firefighter Andy Mullen, Anchorage Fire Department, both contracted cancer from being exposed to carcinogens while performing their firefighter duties.

The bill you are considering will go a long way to reduce the chemicals that firefighters and the civilian population is exposed to and would prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of children's products and furniture that contain harmful flame retardant chemicals including organohalogen, organophosphorus, organonitrogen, and nanoscale flame retardants.

On behalf of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, we thank you for putting forward this legislation and urge you to be proactive and prevent exposure to these toxic chemicals by passing HB 27.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jeff Tucker", written in a cursive style.

Jeff Tucker, Immediate Past President

Alaska Fire Chiefs Association



Alaska Nurses Association  
3701 E. Tudor Road, Suite 208  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507  
(907) 274-0827  
[www.aknurse.org](http://www.aknurse.org)

March 29, 2019

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

We are writing on behalf of the Alaska Nurses Association in strong support of HB 27, the Toxic-Free Firefighters and Children Act (TFFCA), which will protect the health of Alaskans by prohibiting the manufacture, sale, and distribution of children's products and furniture containing chemical flame retardants. If passed, the Toxic-Free Firefighters and Children Act will phase out a class of harmful organohalogen, organophosphorous, nitrogen-based, and nanoscale chemicals and protect our children's futures and their potential to grow up safe and healthy.

The ill-health effects of exposure to chemical flame retardants are well-documented and researched. Yet, they are found widely in our homes and environment, commonly used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. Harmful impacts include developmental disabilities, thyroid function impairment, miscarriages, birth defects, and cancer. The national biomonitoring program conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 97 percent of people living in the United States have measurable quantities of flame retardants in their blood. This persistent exposure contaminates fish, wildlife, and people. Simply put, these flame retardants are harmful to the health of our environment, our community, our neighbors, and our children.

Alaskan children's health is already vulnerable and we should be doing everything that we can to ensure a healthy future. Birth defects in our state are twice as high as in the United States as a whole, and Alaska Native infants have a doubled risk. HB 27 will protect children's health by preventing exposure to known toxic chemicals.

This is a tremendous opportunity to make a difference to future generations in our community. The more scientists look, the more they are finding negative impacts even at very low levels of exposure to toxic chemicals. Prenatal exposures to these toxic chemicals 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 our state a healthier, less toxic place to live and raise a family for generations to come.

As nurses, we must protect the health of our children, friends, and neighbors. The Alaska Nurses Association strongly supports HB 27 and we urge you to pass the TFFCA during this legislative session for a healthy Alaska, free of toxic flame retardants.

Sincerely,

Karen Morton, RN  
Legislative Chair  
Alaska Nurses Association

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

Donna Phillips, BSN, RN  
Chair, Labor Council  
Alaska Nurses Association



April 3, 2019

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

The Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AkPIRG) is submitting this letter in support of HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act that would protect the health of Alaska's children and firefighters 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.

AkPIRG, established in 1974, advocates on behalf of public and consumer interests. To our knowledge, we are the only non-governmental organization focused on addressing Alaska-specific consumer interest issues.

Chemical flame retardants have a range of harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm. Yet, they are found widely in our homes and environment. They are commonly used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. The national biomonitoring program conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 97 percent of people living in the United States have measurable quantities of flame retardants in their blood. Children, who are especially vulnerable, have been found to have three to five times higher levels of certain flame retardants than their mothers. Many flame retardants are persistent and bioaccumulate in fish, wildlife, and people. Alaskans are at higher risk of exposure because of our greater time spent indoors in insulated homes, as well as our reliance on traditional foods.

When buying children's furniture, toys, and personal care products, consumers often are unaware that many of their options are loaded with toxic chemicals. Unsafe chemicals create high risks for customers and damage trusting relationships between consumers and businesses. And 62% of chemical producers have said that their customers are interested in sustainable chemicals.

Under current federal law, flame retardant chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety. These toxic chemicals pose a serious public health threat, yet do not provide a fire safety benefit. 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. Scientific studies have found that flame retardant chemicals are not needed to provide fire safety. There are safe, economical, and effective alternatives to toxic flame retardants.

Businesses have already begun to respond to consumer concerns: nationally, corporations like Walmart, Target, and Staples have all endorsed their own transition to safer chemicals. And in Anchorage, businesses who are customer-oriented like Mattress Ranch have pledged to eliminate inventory containing flame

retardant chemicals, which have been shown to cause cancer, poor neurodevelopment in children, and a whole slew of other health problems.

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. The Anchorage assembly has recently passed an ordinance in banning flame retardants from certain consumer products – the rest of the state deserves to be protected as well. 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, consisting of a large 'V' followed by a stylized, cursive flourish that extends horizontally to the right.

Veri di Suvero  
Executive Director  
AkPIRG







**KAWERAK, INC.**

April 3, 2019

**REPRESENTING**

**Brevig Mission**

**Sitaisaq**

**Council**

**Diomede**

**Inqaliq**

**Elim**

**Niviarcaurluq**

**Gambell**

**Sivuqaq**

**Golovin**

**Chinik**

**King Island**

**Ugiuvak**

**Koyuk**

**Kuuyuk**

**Mary's Igloo**

**Qawiaraq**

**Nome Eskimo**

**Sitnasuak Inuit**

**Savoonga**

**Sivungaq**

**Shaktoolik**

**Saktuliq**

**Shishmaref**

**Qikiqtaq**

**Solomon**

**Anjuutaq**

**St. Michael**

**Taciq**

**Stebbins**

**Tapraq**

**Teller**

**Tala**

**Unalakleet**

**Unqalaqliq**

**Wales**

**Kinigin**

**White Mountain**

**Igakuik /**

**Nutchirviq**

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

I support HB 27, the Toxic-Free Children Act, a bill to protect the health of Alaska's children by preventing exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. This bill will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. It 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. I 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,

KAWERAK, INCORPORATED

Melanie Bahnke, President/CEO

**KAWERAK, INC.**

PO Box 948 • Nome Alaska 99762 • 907.443.5231 • [www.kawerak.org](http://www.kawerak.org)

Advancing the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region.



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES  
& SPECIAL EDUCATION  
Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1230  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Main: 907.269.8990  
Toll Free: 1.888.269.8990  
Fax: 907.269.8995

April 1, 2019

RE: Letter of Support for HB 27, the Toxic-Free Firefighters and 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 Firefighters and Children Act, a bill that would protect the health of Alaska's children and families by preventing exposure to toxic organohalogen, organophosphorus, organonitrogen, and nanoscale 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 2018 about products containing organohalogen, organophosphorus, organonitrogen, and nanoscale 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.

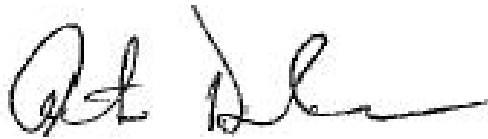
This provides significant justification for the Alaska State Legislature to enact HB 27. It should be noted that seventeen states are considering 27 policies in 2019 to ban toxic flame retardants: Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, 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

April 1, 2019

My name is Carl Propes and I am the owner of Scan Home furniture located in the Dover Center in midtown Anchorage. I started the business in 1983 and have been the local owner/operator ever since. I import furniture from around the world to Alaska. We source our furniture in Denmark, Italy, the Ukraine, Finland, Norway, Brazil, North and South America, as well as China, Vietnam and Thailand.

Scan Home is a past member of the Sustainable Furnishings Council, a coalition of manufacturers, retailers and designers dedicated to raising awareness and expanding the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices across the home furnishings industry. The Council has submitted a letter in support of HB27 Protecting the Health of Children and Firefighters Act .

I am submitting this letter in support of HB27 to protect the health of Alaska's children and firefighters by reducing their exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. If passed, this policy will prevent the manufacture, sale and distribution of toxic flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture in Alaska.

We polled the majority of our manufacturers last fall to determine if their furniture contained toxic flame retardants and all of them were in full compliance with the recently-passed California legislation that addressed flammability and fire safety standards. Therefore, since this bill would seem to have a positive impact on our community and would not negatively impact my business I support the passage of HB27.

Sincerely,

**Carl Propes**

SCAN HOME, INC.

Carl A. Propes Jr., Owner

100 W 34th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99503

