

## House Bill 27 Letters of Support for Flame Retardant Ban, as of 2/25/20

Joann Lesh	Gustavus
Alaska Fire Chief's Association	Statewide
Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association	Statewide
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A Douglas Fournier 5	
Michael Keenan 7	
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Anna Brawley 21	
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Alek Boyd 24	
Gordon Descutner 28	
Edward Athey 29	
Rusby Clinton Crites III 29	
Anthony Prior 30	
Dan Grimes 30	
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Joseph Fleming, IAFF, testimony 3/19/2018	National
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Scan Homes Inc, Carl Propes Jr., owner	Anchorage
Alaska School Nurses Association	Statewide
Alaska Children's Trust	Statewide
American Cancer Society	Statewide
Alaska Nurses Association	Statewide
AKPIRG	Statewide
Kawerak, Inc	Northwest AK
Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education	Statewide
Jill Wittenbrader	Kodiak
Sally McLaughlin	Gustavus
Thomas Ely	Haines

Anne Fuller  
Patricia Byrn  
Joan McBeen  
Theresa Bartoldus  
Jacica Kim  
Veri di Suvero  
Kathleen Whitson  
Kengo Nagaoka  
Christin Swearingen  
Heather Aronno  
Kaurel Hauser  
Jim Farrell  
Nana Paldi  
Susan Vogt  
Alicia Sidebottom

***Letters from 2017-2018 HB 27 on Flame Retardants***

*Mark Giese*  
*Native Village of Gambell*  
*Native Village of Elim*  
*Pathology Associates*  
*Yasuhiro and Naomi Ozuru*  
*Sivuqaq, Incorporated*  
*Frank von Hippel, Professor, Northern Arizona University*  
*Unite Here Local 878*  
*The Arc of Anchorage*  
*Native Village of Diomedes*  
*Native Village of Savoonga*  
*John Kennish*  
*Holly Kent*  
*Planned Parenthood*  
*Rebecca Noblin*  
*Marshall Clymer*  
*Beverly Churchill*  
*Maryam Bassir*  
*Princess Lucaj*  
*All Alaska Pediatric Partnership*  
*Norton Sound Health Corporation*  
*Native Movement*  
*IBEW Local 1547*

Juneau  
Anchorage  
Tenakee Springs  
Anchorage  
Anchorage  
Anchorage  
Anchorage  
Anchorage  
Anchorage  
Anchorage  
Fairbanks  
Fairbanks  
Fairbanks  
Palmer

*Racine, WI*  
*Gambell*  
*Elim*  
*Anchorage*  
*Anchorage*  
*Gambell*  
*Arizona EXPERT*  
*Statewide*  
*Anchorage*  
*Little Diomedes*  
*Savoonga*  
*Anchorage EXPERT*  
*Anchorage*  
*Statewide*  
*Anchorage*  
*Anchorage*  
*Anchorage*  
*Kenai*  
*Fairbanks*  
*Anchorage*  
*Nome*  
*Fairbanks*  
*Anchorage*

Compiled by staff to Representative Tarr 2/25/20

**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

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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



## **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)

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**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 over a horizontal line.

**Jeff Tucker, Immediate Past President**

**Alaska Fire Chiefs Association**





**ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**  
PO Box 111222 Anchorage, AK 99511  
North Pole – Fairbanks – Shemya – Anchorage – Juneau – Ketchikan – Sitka  
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,

Paul Miranda  
Southcentral Vice President  
Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association

Dear Representative Tarr:

As a firefighter, I support House Bill 27, known as the "Toxic-Free Firefighters and Children Act." House Bill 27 would make it illegal to manufacture, sell, or distribute new products in Alaska with certain flame-retardant chemicals, including products with organohalogen flame retardants. The bill also requires manufactures to label products with flame retardant chemicals.

Tragically, many of the chemicals used to make products less flammable become toxic when they burn. Exposing us to these cancer-causing chemicals puts us at undue risk, especially because there are now safer alternatives available for manufacturers to use that don't risk people lives

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I urge you and your colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation so that firefighting can be a safer profession.

Sincerely,

A Douglas Fournier  
(Signature)

2.4 2019  
(Date)

A. Douglas Fournier  
(Printed Name)

(HOME)  
105 JAKIE, FBKS, AK 99701 OF  
(Street Address)

(WORK) 2358 BROADWAY RD., N POLE, AK 99705

DFOURNIER@NORTHEASTARFIRE.ORG  
(Email Address)

(City)  
(HOME) - FAIRBANKS  
(WORK) - NORTH POLE

55

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Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

1-04-19  
(Date)

Mark Ian Greene  
(Printed Name)

P.O. Box 951  
(Street Address)

mkgreene@mtaonline.com  
(Email/Address)

Willow AK  
(City)

Dear Representative Tarr:

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Sincerely,

Anthony D Prior  
(Signature)

2/4/19  
(Date)

Anthony D Prior  
(Printed Name)

105 S. Willow St  
(Street Address) /

aprior@kenai.city  
(Email Address)

Kenai, AK  
(City)

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Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

2/4/19  
(Date)

FORREST KUIPER  
(Printed Name)

1283 Ridgmonte  
(Street Address)

fkuiper@alaska.edu  
(Email Address)

Fairbanks, Alaska  
(City)

HOUSE DISTRICT #5  
ADAM WOOL



Dear Representative Tarr:

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Sincerely,

Mike K  
(Signature)

2-4-19  
(Date)

Michael Kenna  
(Printed Name)

1321 Ivy Circle  
(Street Address)

michael.kenna@alaska.com  
(Email Address)

Wasilla, AK 99657  
(City)



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Sincerely,



(Signature)

2/4/19

(Date)

Dan Grimes

(Printed Name)

345 Edwards Court

(Street Address)

grimesdaniel@2egrouper Soldotna, AK 99669

(Email Address)

(City)

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Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

1-04-19  
(Date)

Madison Greene  
(Printed Name)

110. Box 951  
(Street Address)

mhgreene@mtaonline.net Willow AK  
(Email/Address) (City)

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Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

2-4-2019  
(Date)

John Fairchild  
(Printed Name)

10033 W Park Highway  
(Street Address)

john.fairchild@matson.gov.us  
(Email Address)

Big Lake AK  
(City)



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Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

2/4/19  
(Date)

Gordon Desautres  
(Printed Name)

3025 Seawind Dr.  
(Street Address)

gedesautres@gmail.com  
(Email Address)

Anchorage 99516  
(City)

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Sincerely,

Steven H. Crouch  
(Signature)

2-4-2019  
(Date)

Steven H Crouch  
(Printed Name)

2358 Bradway Road  
(Street Address)

scrouch@northstarfire.org  
(Email Address)

North Pole, AK 99705  
(City)

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Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

2/4/19  
(Date)

Rusby Clinton Crites III  
(Printed Name)

1716 Phoenix Rd  
(Street Address)

RLCrites@cityofseward.net  
(Email Address)

Seward, AK 99664  
(City)



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Sincerely,

Debra S. Coon  
(Signature)

2-4-19  
(Date)

Geoffrey L Coon  
(Printed Name)

110 Lewis Street  
(Street Address)

gcoon@north pole fire.org  
(Email Address)

North Pole  
(City)

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Sincerely,

Megan  
(Signature)

04 Feb 12  
(Date)

Siima Chase  
(Printed Name)

1184 Lygon St  
(Street Address)

schase@nnmcc.org  
(Email Address)

Kotivue  
(City)

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Sincerely,

Roy Browning  
(Signature)

2-4-19  
(Date)

Roy Browning  
(Printed Name)

48236 Harmann Ave.  
(Street Address)

rbrowning@kpb.us  
(Email Address)

Soldotna  
(City)



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Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

2/4/19  
(Date)

Alex Boyd  
(Printed Name)

3211 Ambrose Rd, 1998  
(Street Address)

alex@alexi.net  
(Email Address)

Anchorage, AK 99508  
(City)

Dear Representative Tarr:

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Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

2-4-19  
(Date)

Benningfield  
(Printed Name)

(Street Address)

Tim.Benningfield@CVFRD.com  
(Email Address)

Chugiak  
(City)

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According to the International Association of Fire Fighters, occupational-related cancers now account for more than half of fire fighters' line-of-duty deaths each year and cancer-causing chemicals are the largest health-related issue facing the firefighting profession.

Currently, Maine and Rhode Island prohibit certain flame-retardant chemicals and just last year, then California Governor Jerry Brown, signed a law banning dangerous flame retardants. These and other prohibitions have put pressure on manufacturers to embrace alternatives and produce products without the use of dangerous flame retardants.

I urge you and your colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation so that firefighting can be a safer profession.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Athey  
(Signature)

4 February 2019  
(Date)

Edward M. Athey  
(Printed Name)

201 Ash Street  
(Street Address)

eathey@cityofseward.net Seward  
(Email Address) (City)



Dear Representative Tarr:

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I urge you and your colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation so that firefighting can be a safer profession.

Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

2/4/19  
(Date)

CHRISTOPHER STEEVES  
(Printed Name)

20017 TULWAR DR  
(Street Address)

chris.steeves@cvfrd.com  
(Email Address)

CHUGIAK AK 91567  
(City)

Dear Representative Tarr:

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I urge you and your colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation so that firefighting can be a safer profession.

Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

2-4-2019  
(Date)

James Strick  
(Printed Name)

101 W. Swanwick Ave, Wasilla, AK.  
(Street Address)

James.Strick@matangon.us  
(Email Address)

Wasilla  
(City)

Dear Representative Tarr:

As a firefighter, I support House Bill 27, known as the "Toxic-Free Firefighters and Children Act." House Bill 27 would make it illegal to manufacture, sell, or distribute new products in Alaska with certain flame-retardant chemicals, including products with organohalogen flame retardants. The bill also requires manufactures to label products with flame retardant chemicals.

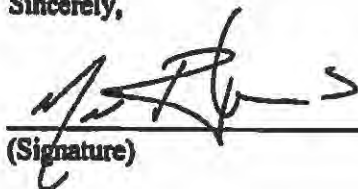
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I urge you and your colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation so that firefighting can be a safer profession.

Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

9. February 2019  
(Date)

Mio Rheim  
(Printed Name)

9017 S Tongass Ketchikan AK  
(Street Address)

mio.rheim@kgb.ak.us  
(Email Address)

Ketchikan  
(City)

## TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH FLEMING

(Submitted in writing to Alaskan House Resource Committee - 3/19/2018)

I am writing to give my support to HB 27; Act relating to chemicals that are of high concern for children and to the manufacture and products containing certain flame retardant chemicals; relating to an clearinghouse; adding an unlawful act to the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices Protection Act; and providing for an effective date.

Study after study have concluded that organohalogen flame retardant pose a serious health risk to the public in general, although Firefighters are particularly vulnerable. I assume that others will explore the health risks in detail. I will deal with the effectiveness of fire retardants and whether or not any health risk is even warranted.

### Part One – Have the historical furniture flammability standards made a difference?

In the past, flame retardants were added to furniture in order to pass the California Fire Tests: TB117 (a small flame), for residential furniture and TB133 (a more robust test), for “public spaces” furniture.

- In 2013, Underwriters Labs tested FR and Non-FR furniture and concluded –
  2. Substitution of TB 117 flame retardant treated foam (frPU) in place of untreated foam (PU):
    - Fire growth behavior was unchanged – rapid development with a high peak release rate.
    - Average peak heat release rate was reduced by 15% for corner ignition and side/back location, and unchanged for the back bottom ignition.
    - Elapsed times for the heat release rate to reach 1000 kW (flashover) were comparable

<http://www.ul.com/global/documents/offers/industries/buildingmaterials/fireservice/furniture/Upholstered%20Furniture%20Flammability%20report.pdf>

- In 2012, the Consumer Product Safety Commission tested furniture and concluded –

Overall, the results demonstrated that the addition of a fire barrier markedly increased the fire safety of the furniture. The data indicated that the fire sizes were smaller and the time to reach the peak fire size was slower with fire barriers, regardless of the fabric or foams used. Among the other effects examined, a relative difference was noticed in the foams, but the fire-retardant foams did not offer a practically significantly greater level of open-flame safety than did the untreated foams.

<https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/openflame.pdf>

- ❖ *Joseph Fleming is a Deputy Chief on The Boston Fire Department and a member of the International Association of Fire Fighters. He has testified before several state legislatures regarding the risk/benefit of flame retardants.*



- In 1995, Hugh Tally, a consultant with the furniture industry published a paper that looked at the real world benefit of TB117. He concluded -

*California TB-117 foam made no difference in the cigarette ignition propensity of any of the cushions tested.*

*With the exception of sample pairs 07 and 08, all of the cushions tested in the small open flame tests ignited. In 20 of the 30 small open flame tests, (66.7% of the tests) the conventional foam cushions appeared to be equal to or better than the TB-117 cushions in ignition and flame spread characteristics. It should be pointed out that in the 10 test pairs in which the TB-117 cushions appeared to perform better than the conventional foam cushions, the differences in time to ignition and flame spread were very small. Thus, there is no significant, consistent evidence from these data that cushions made with TB-117 foam perform in a small open flame scenario any better than cushions made from conventional foams.*

It seems clear that having foam that passed TB117 provided little indication of how furniture would burn in real world scenarios. But if the historical standards did not improve flammability the how can the FR industry claim that they made a difference?

#### Part Two – Do flame retardants deserve major credit for the reduction in fire deaths?

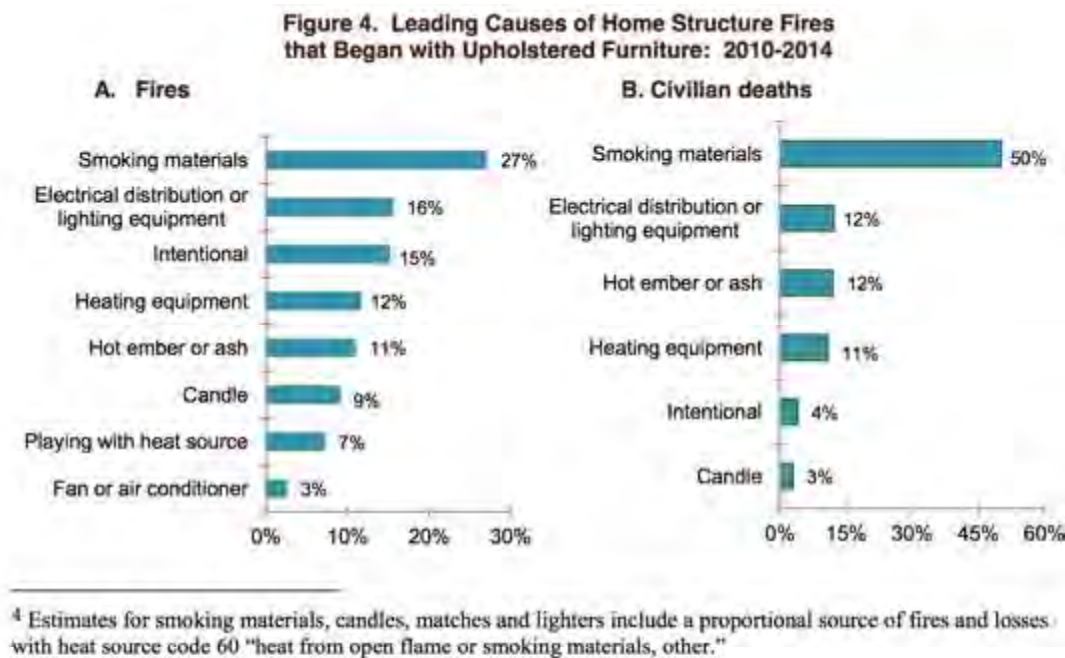
***FACT:** Flame retardants provide an important layer of fire protection and help save lives. Indeed, fires have dropped significantly over the past 40 years and a major contributor to the decline in fires and fire deaths since the 1970s was the development of a comprehensive set of fire-safety measures that include flame retardants. .... The fact is flame retardants help prevent fires from starting, slow the spread of some initial fires, reduce the intensity of fires, and provide occupants of a home or building or workers in various situations additional life-saving time to escape a fire, as well as time for firefighters to respond to a fire. <https://www.flameretardantfacts.com/fact-checker/>*

No one has been able to connect the reduction in fire deaths over the past 40 years to the use of flame retardants. As the NFPA recently stated, <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/household-products/upholstered-furniture>

*Assessing the probable impact of any one approach to fire safety is challenging. New materials enter the marketplace. Upholstered furniture is a durable product. Newer furniture is likely to have been manufactured to current flammability standards. Over time, things get spilled on the furniture, the fabric may wear out, and the furniture may pass to a different household. It is important to remember that these statistics are based on all upholstered furniture, some of which may be very old.*

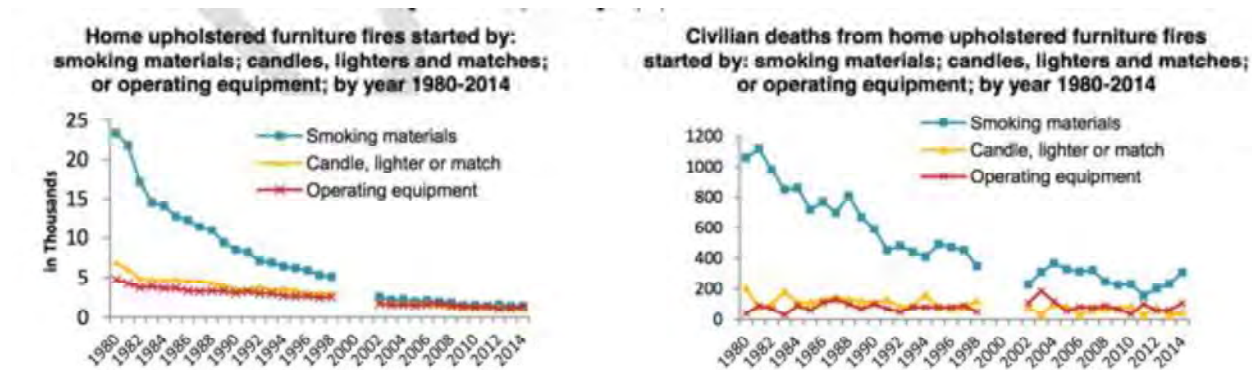
*Changes in the environment also complicate the issue. Homes are much more likely to have smoke alarms today than they were in 1980. This means that more fires may be discovered before fire department assistance is required. Fewer people are smoking. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) required lighters to be child-resistant beginning in 1994, resulting in a drop in fires started by children playing. The increase in candle sales in the 1990s was accompanied by an increase in candle fires that began to fall in the early*

Another problem with attributing the reduction in fire deaths from furniture fires to the use of fire retardants is that TB117 measured a propensity to small flame ignition, while the vast majority of fatal furniture fires involve non-flaming ignition. According to the same NFPA report -



It should be noted that the new California Test, TB117-2013, is a smoldering resistant furniture test that does not require flame retardants. [http://www.bearhfti.ca.gov/about\\_us/tb117\\_2013.pdf](http://www.bearhfti.ca.gov/about_us/tb117_2013.pdf)

There is another chart in this NFPA Report that provided insight into this issue.



While the number of fires and fire fatalities from smoking materials has decreased sharply the number of fires and fire fatalities from flaming ignition has decreased only a small amount. This



decrease coincided with a large increase in the use of smoke alarms and a large decrease in smoking. It does not appear that the use of flame retardants in furniture made an impact.

In a paper titled, “White Paper on Upholstered Furniture Flammability,” John Hall, of the NFPA, estimate the historical benefits of flame retardants. <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/publications/nfpa-journal/2013/september-october-2013/features/old-problem-fresh-look> According to John Hall -

### **Fire prevention and mitigation effects of fire retardants**

Fire retardants have been used to pass small-open-flame tests of filling material. It is not clear how effective these treatments are in resisting small-open-flame ignition of a complete piece of upholstered furniture or in resisting the kind of flaming heat source created when smoldering ignition of the covering fabric is not prevented.

Recent experiments by CPSC and UL have not shown a consistent or significant effect of fire retardants on measures of fire growth, such as peak heat release rate or time to reach peak heat release rate. For example, a memo on tests conducted in 2012 by CPSC concluded “a relative difference was noticed in the foams, but the fire-retardant foams did not offer a practically significantly greater level of open-flame safety than did the untreated foams.”<sup>18</sup> If the fire-retardant treatment tested was applied in order to pass a test like TB 117, however, then it was not designed for that kind of fire performance.

In other words, the small-open-flame ignitions that motivated the introduction of fire retardants constitute a modest share of total upholstered furniture fatal fire deaths (about 10-15%) and always have. For other fire scenarios – notably the large open flame ignitions involving fire spread from another burning item – available test evidence has not shown a significant effect, and one would not expect an effect because the treatments were never designed to resist such large ignition heat sources. Either way, the evidence suggests the past impact of historically favored fire retardant treatments on fire deaths could not have been very large, even if they reliably performed as intended in all fires.

Part Three – Will banning certain flame retardants incase, “*the risk of increased fires generally, of greater intensity?*”

In my opinion, although this is a valid item to take into consideration, once the facts are understood it is not a major concern. To believe that the decrease use of flame retardants in furniture will increase fire risk, one would have to prove that their use in the past decreased fire risk and/or that they improved real world fire behavior. As I have illustrated, the past use of flame retardants does not appear to have improved real world fire behavior or impacted the available fire statistics.

In the NFPA “White Paper,” mentioned earlier, there is an attempt to estimate the size of the furniture fire problem, including when the furniture is the 2<sup>nd</sup> item ignited. (This may provide insight into the potential benefit of the use of flame retardants.)

**Table 2. Upholstered furniture fire problem, 2006-2010 averages, including fires with upholstered furniture as primary item contributing to fire spread, by major scenario**

	<b>Fires</b>	<b>Civilian Deaths</b>	<b>Civilian Injuries</b>	<b>Direct Damage (in Millions)</b>
Lighted tobacco product	1,900 (21%)	270 (45%)	320 (29%)	\$97 (17%)
Open flame from other fire	2,200 (25%)	130 (21%)	280 (25%)	\$138 (24%)
Operating equipment	1,500 (17%)	70 (12%)	140 (13%)	\$81 (14%)
Small open flame	1,400 (16%)	60 (10%)	220 (20%)	\$69 (12%)
Ember, ash or other or unclassified hot or smoldering object	1,300 (15%)	60 (10%)	130 (11%)	\$150 (27%)
Unclassified.	600 (7%)	20 (3%)	30 (3%)	\$31 (5%)

9

Even if one accepts the statistical methodology used to arrive at the numbers, several items should be considered.

1. The majority (55%) of ignition sources are smoldering and these are addressed by TB117-2013, which does not require flame retardants to be added to the furniture.
2. Starting in 2020, Underwriters Laboratories (UL217) will be mandating that all smoke alarms pass more robust fire tests, as well as be resistant to nuisance alarms. Smoke alarms that pass these new tests will respond to both flaming and smoldering ignited furniture fires faster than in the past. This will provide more time for occupants to safely exit the house, without the need for fire retardants.
3. The combination of TB117-2013 and the updated UL217 should greatly reduce the risk of furniture fires from flaming and smoldering ignition even without the use of flame retardants.

**Why should Alaska expose its citizens, especially firefighters, to any chemicals, particularly chemicals hazardous to humans and/or the environment, without a reasonable expectation that this major increase in risk, to health and the environment will be justified by a major reduction in fire risk? Since I have demonstrated that there is no reason to expect a reduction in fire risk from the use of flame retardants in furniture, what justifies any risk to citizens, firefighters and the environment?**

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





1/30/2020

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

We are submitting this letter in support of HB 27, the Toxic-Free Firefighters and Children Act that would protect the health of Alaska's children and firefighters 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 firefighters and children are especially 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. We've found that public education on the dangers of these flame retardants has moved very slowly, so most parents seem to still be unaware that they should be avoided. Therefore it is unrealistic to depend on the "free market" to keep these dangerous chemicals out of people's homes where they can be absorbed into babies' and children's bodies, damaging their brains, endocrine, and reproductive systems. This is an area where governmental action is needed to protect pregnant women, babies, and children.

It is the responsibility of our Alaska State Legislature to take action in passing the Toxic-Free Firefighters and Children Act (HB 27) to protect the health of our firefighters 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,

Barbara Norton, APRN, CNM  
President, Geneva Woods Midwifery, Inc.

January 29, 2020

Dear Members of the State of Alaska Legislature,

**thread**, Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Network, supports 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.

**thread** urges 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 that reads 'Stephanie Berglund'.

Stephanie Berglund, MSW  
CEO, **thread**  
(907) 265-3101  
sberglund@**thread**alaska.org





***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

3851 Piper Street, Suite U240 • Anchorage, AK • 99508  
Phone 907.273.2097 • Fax 907.273.2073





Alaska Nurses Association  
3701 E. Tudor Road, Suite 208  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507  
(907) 274-0827  
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

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*The Alaska Nurses Association serves to advance and support the profession of nursing. The Alaska Nurses Association's core purpose includes working to improve health standards and promoting access to safe, affordable healthcare services for all Alaskans.*





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, appearing to read 'Veri di Suvero', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Veri di Suvero  
Executive Director  
AkPIRG





**KAWERAK, INC.**

April 3, 2019

**REPRESENTING**

Brevig Mission

Sitaisaq

Council

Diomedea

Inaliq

Ellim

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

Anuutaq

St. Michael

Taciq

Stebbins

Tapraq

Teller

Tala

Unalakleet

Unalaqliq

Wales

Kinigigin

White Mountain

Igaluik /

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

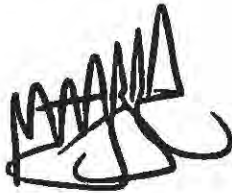


adverse health effects such as cancer, miscarriages, premature births, neurological and developmental delays, and respiratory problems.

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

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

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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:** [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

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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

  
Juneau Alaska

**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

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

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

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

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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:** [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

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

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

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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:** [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:** [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]



**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:** 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:** 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:** [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:** [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:** [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]





## **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

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**"Established in 1934, dedicated to serving the members and preserving the culture."**

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 Ungelt, President of NVG



**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**

**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**

**~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Street Anchorage AK 99507**

**~~XXXXXXXXXX~~**



**SIVUQAQ, INCORPORATED**  
P.O. BOX 101 ~ GAMBELL, ALASKA 99742  
Telephone: (907) 985-5826 ~ Fax: (907) 985-5426  
Email: [sivuqaq@eci.net](mailto:sivuqaq@eci.net) or [sivuqaqregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto: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

**928-623-2381**  
**928-623-7500 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

Pension Information: call (800) 452-4155

March 6, 2018

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  
AREA OFFICE  
(907) 452-2332

JUNEAU  
AREA OFFICE  
(907) 780-4844

KENAI/SOLDOTNA  
AREA OFFICE  
(907) 260 3080

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](http://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](mailto:brath@thearcofanchorage.org) | 907.777.0127

*Achieve with us.*

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

March 7, 2018

Opik Ahkinga  
Environmental Coordinator  
Native Village of Diomed  
P.O. Box 7079  
Little Diomed, Alaska 99762  
[dio.env103@yahoo.com](mailto: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 an 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 128, SAVOONGA, AK 99789 • PHONE 907-6414 • FAX 907-627**

**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.**


**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, bio accumulative 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) 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.



John M. Kennish  
kennish@live.com

Holly Kent

  
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,



Holly Kent





Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii

Representative Tarr  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Bill 27

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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  
3231 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801  
907.957.8708 | Alyson.Currey@ppvnh.org

## Emails in Support of HB 27

**From:** Rebecca Noblin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 6, 2018 9:32 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Geran Tarr <[Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov)>;  
**Subject:** please pass HB 27

Dear House Resource Committee,

As a mother of two young children, I am strongly in support of HB 27. I try to avoid harmful chemicals, but it's often hard to even know whether products actually contain harmful chemicals. HB 27 is a step in the right direction and will help to keep all children in Alaska safe and healthy.

Thank you to Geran for sponsoring this bill. I urge you all to pass HB 27 out of the Resource Committee.

Thank you,

Rebecca Noblin

Anchorage AK 99517

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Marshall Clymer  
**Sent:** Friday, February 09, 2018 9:52 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please schedule a hearing for HB 53 and HB 27

Dear Legislators of the House Resources Committee,

Is there any defensible reason for toxic ingredients in children's toys and other children's products? Is there any defensible reason not to take action now to ban these ingredients from toys and other children's products? Please take up HB 53 and 27 ASAP. We owe it to our children.

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

I urge you to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic fire retardants in children's toys and upholstered furniture by scheduling a hearing on the resources committee for HB 53 and HB 27.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Marshall Clymer

Anchorage, AK 99507



From: Beverly Churchill

Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2018 9:22 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>

Subject: Please schedule a hearing for HB 53 and HB 27

Dear Legislators of the House Resources Committee,

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

I urge you to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic fire retardants in children's toys and upholstered furniture by scheduling a hearing on the resources committee for HB 53 and HB 27.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Beverly Churchill

Anchorage, AK 99509

-----Original Message-----

From: Maryam Bassir

Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2018 10:06 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>

Subject: Please schedule a hearing for HB 53 and HB 27

Dear Legislators of the House Resources Committee,

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

I urge you to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic fire retardants in children's toys and upholstered furniture by scheduling a hearing on the resources committee for HB 53 and HB 27.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maryam Bassir

Kenai, AK 99611

-----Original Message-----

From: Princess Lucaj

Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 10:10 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>

Subject: Please schedule a hearing for HB 53 and HB 27

Dear Legislators of the House Resources Committee,

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

I urge you to support a healthy Alaskan community free of exposures to toxic fire retardants in children's toys and upholstered furniture by scheduling a hearing on the resources committee for HB 53 and HB 27.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Princess Lucaj

AK 99701





March 13, 2018

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

On behalf of the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership and its board of directors, I am writing to you in support of HB27, the Toxic-Free Children Act, a bill that would protect the health of Alaska's children, families, and firefighters by preventing exposure to toxic organohalogen flame retardant chemicals found in children's products and upholstered furniture.

Numerous scientific papers in the peer-reviewed literature have documented the harms posed by the use of organohalogen flame-retardants in consumer products. Children are especially at-risk because they come into greater contact with household dust than adults, and studies show that children, whose developing brains and reproductive organs are most vulnerable, have three to five times higher blood levels of these chemicals than their parents. Children in Alaska are especially vulnerable because they tend to spend more time indoors in homes with greater insulation and less ventilation during the long winter months.

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 All Alaska Pediatric Partnership thanks you for sponsoring HB 27 and we support its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tamar Ben-Yosef'.

Tamar Ben-Yosef

Executive Director,  
All Alaska Pediatric Partnership

All Alaska Pediatric Partnership | Tax I.D. 47-342-8822 | PO Box 230567, Anchorage, AK 99523 | 907-903-6770  
<http://a2p2.org>





March 7, 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, bio-accumulative 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,

Angie Gorn, NSHC President/CEO





# NATIVE MOVEMENT

WWW.NATIVEMOVEMENT.ORG

Friday March 9, 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 labeling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals.

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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,

Enei Begaye-Peter  
Executive Director, Native Movement  
PO Box 83467 Fairbanks, AK 99709



**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**  
**Local 1547**

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**DAVE REAVES**  
BUSINESS MANAGER • FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**KNUTE ANDERSON**  
PRESIDENT



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

**On behalf of the 5,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547, I am writing in support of HB 27.**

**HB 27 will protect the health of Alaska's children by preventing the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. Under current federal law, these toxic chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety. We now have scientific evidence that proves exposure to chemical flame retardants causes serious health problems.**

**One of the tenets of our union is safety. In the 1800's when we were founded one of every two electrical workers were killed on the job. Being proactive on this issue helps reduce costs and risks as workers, especially first responders. Exposure to harmful chemicals in the workplace will only result in lost productivity at a financial cost to employers.**

**We support HB 27 because this legislation provides an opportunity to ensure that all Alaskans have good information and safe products.**

**Thank you for your consideration of our views. Please support HB 27.**

**Sincerely,**

**Dave Reaves**  
**Business Manager**  
**IBEW Local 1547**