



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,

Tamar Ben-Yosef

Executive Director,
All Alaska Pediatric Partnership