

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