MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT
Labeling Household Goods Containing Chemical Flame Retardants and Prohibiting their use in Children’s Products

HB 7197- An Act Labeling and Restricting the Use of Flame Retardants

BACKGROUND
Additive chemical flame retardants are toxic, contribute to a wide range of adverse human health impacts, and are largely ineffective in improving fire safety. In 2017, the Consumer Products Safety Commission released a guidance that acknowledged the overwhelming body of scientific evidence that organohalogen flame retardants present a serious public health issue, and recommended that manufacturers of household goods and furniture discontinue their use.

When used in non-polymeric additive foam, chemical flame retardants migrate or offgas out of household consumer products and into the home environment, leading to widespread human exposures. As a result, 97% of people living in the U.S. have measurable quantities of chemical flame retardants in their blood, as estimated by the national biomonitoring program conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Toxicological studies reveal that flame retardants pose a disproportionate risk to the development of fetuses, infants, and young children, due to their smaller, rapidly growing bodies and developing immune systems. Because of their small stature and high rates of exposure, flame retardant levels in children’s bodies are often many times the average concentrations found in adults.

JUSTIFICATION
Given their toxicity, bioaccumulative properties, potential for long range transport and disproportionate health impacts on children, it is critical that states move towards eliminating toxic flame retardants in children’s products and household consumer goods as soon as possible. It is time for CT to join other states that have already stepped up to prohibit dangerous chemical flame retardants. In 2017, the States of Maine and Rhode Island both passed their own bans on chemical flame retardants in children’s products and household furniture.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS
- Require manufacturers to label household goods to indicate whether they contain chemical flame retardants;
- Prohibits any business or person from selling products intended for children under the age of twelve that contains additive chemical flame retardants.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS HB 7197- LABELING & RESTRICTING THE USE OF CHEMICAL FLAME RETARDANTS

Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000 member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment.

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