



1107 9th Street, Suite 625 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 498-9608 • mail@consumercal.org

March 26, 2015

Senator Jerry Hill
Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 763 (Leno) – Juvenile products: flame retardant chemicals – Co-Sponsor
Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development -- April 13**

Dear Senator Hill:

The Consumer Federation of California (CFC) writes, as co-sponsor, in strong support of SB 763, legislation to ensure consumers know whether the children's products they are purchasing contain added flame retardant chemicals. SB 763 will require manufacturers to disclose on a product label whether or not the product contains flame retardant chemicals, giving consumers a choice and providing businesses with a standard format to communicate their use of these harmful chemicals.

SB 763 would require retailers to display point of sale information regarding the inclusion of flame retardant chemicals in a manner easily identified by consumers. The proposed disclosures would provide uniform information to consumers in a simple and accessible manner. It would also provide businesses a standard format to communicate the information to consumers.

Flame retardant chemicals are associated with a variety of serious health concerns. Cancer, decreased fertility, hormone disruption, lower IQ, and hyperactivity have all been linked to the use of flame retardant chemicals. These chemicals can transfer from household products into the air and dust in a consumer's home. Studies have shown that young children, who often crawl on the floor and put their hands in their mouths, have some of the highest levels of flame retardants in their blood.

When burned, some flame retardants can give off higher concentrations of toxic smoke that contains cancer-causing chemicals such as dioxins and furans, putting firefighters and the public at risk. A recent study found that firefighters are at higher risk for developing bone marrow and testicular cancers, among others, as well as brain tumors.

Children's product manufacturers are able to produce fire safe products without adding these chemicals, which do not provide a meaningful fire safety benefit in furniture and children's products. California does not require juvenile products to meet any flammability standard, as juvenile products do not represent a serious fire hazard (owing to use under adult supervision and the absence of flammable materials, including polyurethane foams), yet product testing continues to reveal the presence of these chemicals.

SB 763 will ensure that the public is able to make informed choices, as consumers currently have no way of knowing whether a child's product contains fire retardant chemicals.

We urge your "Aye" vote on SB 763.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Holober". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Holober
Executive Director

cc: Members, Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development
Senator Mark Leno