



6/18/15

Thank you Chairman Naughton, Chairman Timilty, and Members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security,

I welcome the opportunity to urge your support, this session for H2119, An Act to prohibit the distribution in commerce of children's products and upholstered furniture containing certain flame retardants, and for other purposes. Filed by Representative Decker. Thank you.

I am Margo Golden, President, Board of Directors, Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition. We are dedicated to preventing environmental causes of breast cancer.

Based on current incidence rates, and living with breast cancer, I am representative of the 1 in 8 women, born in the United States today who will be diagnosed with breast cancer sometime in her lifetime.

The breast cancer rate in San Francisco for female firefighters age 40 to 50 is six times this national average. This is not acceptable.

I am here in awe and solidarity with these brave firefighters. I thank all of them. They protect our families when we can't. Fire fighters protect our lives and face incredible risks on our behalf and we should all be outraged that they have to face elevated risks of cancer as well.

I am representative of the countless women and men and their families having to endure the hardship of a breast cancer diagnosis, painful treatment regimens, shifting side effects, and expensive healthcare costs.

We continue to be contaminated without our consent by persistent, bioaccumulative, endocrine disruptive, and carcinogenic chemicals in products containing synthetic flame retardants.

We ask for your support so synthetic flame retardants chemicals are not found in our everyday environments.

They have been detected at high levels in our homes and our bodies, and have been linked to health problems including cancer, infertility, and birth defects.



Flame retardants have become widespread in our air, water, food, everyday products, schools, workplaces, and therefore end up in our bodies. Highchairs, car seats, nursing pads, furniture, carpet pads, toys, and many more common household products have been shown to contain toxic flame retardants that threaten our health, and our children's health.

We ask for your support and your dedication on preventing illness such as breast cancer through reducing and replacing synthetic flame retardant with safer alternatives.

Your favorable report of this bill is of utmost importance to protecting the health and well being of our families and communities and reducing the burden of illnesses and health care costs.

Our children are our future. Our firefighters are our absolute heroes. You, your committee, and your colleagues can be our sensible, responsible, and wise champions.

Please vote in favor of H2119 to protect the health of the citizens of Massachusetts, to defend the health of our brave firefighters, and to give our children, our future generations the benefit of living a safer, healthier, and fuller life.

Thank you,
Margo Simon Golden
Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition
President, Board of Directors