



MASSACHUSETTS BREAST CANCER COALITION

7/28/2015

Thank you Senator Jason Lewis & Representative Kate Hogan for Chairing this Committee and Thank you to the Members of the Joint Committee on Public Health,

I welcome the opportunity to urge your support, this session for S. 1132 – An Act to protect children and families from harmful flame retardants. Filed by Senator Cynthia Stone Creem

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

I am honored to sit with Mike O'Reilly – Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts

Fire fighters protect our lives and our families when we can't. They face incredible risks on our behalf and we should all be outraged that they have to face 3X higher rates of cancer than the rest of the population.

Studies have reported that the breast cancer rate in San Francisco for female firefighters age 40 to 50 is six times the national average. This is not acceptable.

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.

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, carcinogenic, and endocrine disruptive, toxic chemicals in products, such as in children's products and residential furniture.

Though often ineffective, flame retardants have become widespread and have been detected at high levels in our air, water, soil, food, everyday products, homes, schools, workplaces, and ultimately end up in our bodies. Residential furniture and children's products have shown to contain toxic flame retardants that threaten our health, and the health of our children.

Exposure to toxic flame retardants has been linked to cancer, infertility, birth defects, and early puberty in girls. We ask for your support and your dedication on preventing illness such as breast cancer. Massachusetts manufacturers and retailers of children's products and household furniture need to phase out the use of certain harmful flame retardant chemicals and replace them 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. You, your committee, and your colleagues can be our sensible, responsible, and wise champions. Please vote in favor of S1132, this session, to protect the health of the citizens of Massachusetts and to give our children, our future generations the benefit of living a safer, healthier, and fuller life.