



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number: HB 424
Title: Public Health – Products Containing a Flame-Retardant Chemical
Hearing Date: February 12, 2020
Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 424 – Public Health – Products Containing a Flame-Retardant Chemical*. MNA has a long history of supporting legislation protecting children from certain chemicals in flame retardants. MNA continues this support with this bill which restricts the sale of any juvenile product, mattress, or upholstered furniture that contains more than one-tenth of 1% of certain flame retardant chemicals.

This legislation builds upon existing law which restricts the sale of baby products, which are products used for children up to age 3, with one-tenth of 1% of TCEP or TDCPP. We need to extend the protections of the law to certain juvenile products, used by children up to age 12, because of the health impact of flame retardants. As certain chemicals are being phased out, replacement chemicals are being found to be problematic. The bill’s proposed language encompasses a broader range of problematic chemicals.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the impact of flame retardant chemicals because they are still developing. They also tend to have a higher concentration of these chemicals in their bodies. These chemicals can result in impairment of a child’s future fertility, certain developmental delays including learning deficits, cause endocrine disruption and interference with thyroid hormone action, and lead to cancer.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.¹

References: Butt CM, Congleton J, Hoffman K, Fang M, Stapleton HM. 2014. Metabolites of organophosphate flame retardants and 2-ethylhexyl tetrabromobenzoate in urine from paired mothers and toddlers. *Environ Sci Technol* 48(17):10432-10438.

Consumer Product Safety Commission, <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-09-28/pdf/2017-20733.pdf>.