

Record-Journal

Readers' Opinions, 4-4-2012

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Toxic chemicals

Editor:

The Chlorinated Tris bill currently before the Connecticut General Assembly will protect children in Connecticut by removing toxic flame retardants from children's products sold in this state. Flame retardants in the Tris family were removed from children's pajamas in the 1970s, but after removal of other toxic flame retardants from use in the early 2000s, the use of Tris flame retardants surged. These chemicals can be found in many children's products, such as high chairs, changing table pads, sleep positioners, car seats, play pen mattresses, nursing pillows and many other items. Animal studies suggest Tris flame retardants are potential carcinogens and neurotoxins, causing learning and developmental delays and disruption of natural hormone levels that can lead to conditions like infertility. Safer, economical alternatives exist and should be used.

As a nurse and mother of two young children, I strongly encourage citizens to call their legislators today and urge them to support HB 5218 – An Act Concerning Toxic Flame Retardants. Connecticut has been a leader in protecting children from toxic chemicals and can continue to be a leader by removing toxic chemicals from baby and children's products.

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