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To the Editor,

The CT General Assembly is considering HB 5218 An Act Concerning Toxic Flame Retardants in Children's Products. This bill would ban chlorinated tris flame retardants, including TCPP, TCEP and TDCPP. Both TCEP and TDCPP have recently been listed by the California EPA as mutagenic and carcinogenic. TCEP is no longer produced in Europe and is under consideration to be banned in Canada. TDCPP was banned from children's pajamas in the 1970's when it was found to be a probable human carcinogen. Research shows that it may also disrupt hormone levels and is likely neurotoxic. Despite this it is found in many children's products including nursing pillows, changing pads, and bassinets at concentrations of up to 5 percent by weight. These chemicals off-gas and get into the air and house dust, causing further exposure.

As a parent I must ask how it is possible that we have found a chemical to be of such high concern that we banned it from children's pajamas but left it in items that children sleep, play and nurse on. To me, this indicates not a lack of intent, but a lack of the proper tools to allow us to make the needed changes in our regulations in order to protect the most vulnerable of our population. Because the Federal Toxic Substances Control Act is so weak, and Congress has yet to act to reform this broken law, there are many failures to protect our youth. This is a tragic situation which we can begin to address here in Connecticut. I am proud that our state legislators have chosen to be leaders in banning some of the most egregious chemicals from children's products and I hope that they will continue to move toward a safer, healthier Connecticut by passing HB 5218 this session.

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