



**Flame Retardants
HB 1294**

Testimony before the House Environment Committee
February 6, 2013

Representative Upthegrove and members of the Committee, my name is Mark Miloscia and I am here this afternoon on behalf of the Washington State Catholic Conference, which represents the Catholic Bishops of Washington State on issues of public policy.

Catholics, as faithful citizens *believe we have a moral obligation to protect the planet on which we live* – to respect God’s creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for human beings, especially children at their most vulnerable stages of development.

Over the past few years, the WSCC has supported legislation that bans toxic chemicals from products used by children. Harmful chemicals including lead, Bisphenol A, mercury, etc. have been found in items children use to play, wear, sleep and eat. Many chemicals are linked to cancer, fertility and learning problems.

Available science has sufficiently proven that TRIS and other flame retardant materials provide a risk to children in upholstered furniture and children’s products. Elimination of these chemicals in consumer products in favor of better alternatives provides a safer environment for human beings at a minimal cost to society.

We ask members of this committee to support HB1294. Let us protect our children, and let us move to healthier materials.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.