



**Flame Retardants
Toxic Free Kids**

Testimony - SB 5181

Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee

February 13, 2013

Senator Ericksen and members of the Committee, my name is Mark Miloscia and I am here this morning 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 children’s products and upholstered furniture. Elimination of these chemicals in consumer products in favor of better alternatives provides a safer environment for human beings.

We ask members of this committee to support HB 5181. Let us protect our children and our environment by using healthier materials.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.