



**SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY**

FAMILY, INTERIOR, NUTRITION,
APPAREL DEPARTMENT
329 BURK HALL
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132Tel:
415/338/1219

October 16, 2017

To: President London Breed and Board of Supervisors

Re: Board of Supervisors File No. 170867 - Environment Code - Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture and Juvenile Products

Dear London and fellow supervisors,

I'm writing in support of removing flame retardant chemicals from textile products wherever possible. The State of California removed the requirement for flame retardants in home products, with the exception of bedding and mattresses.

The flame retardant chemicals used since about 1980 are significantly more harmful to humans and pets than those used before 1980. However, with the safety concerns of fire prevention, the cumulative risk of long time exposure to these flame retardant chemicals that continue to off-gas raises the risk of health concerns for children, but especially infants.

I'm an experienced professional from the apparel and textile industry, with technical expertise in fiber and textile industry, I believe the removal of these flame retardant chemicals is long overdue. The health hazards presented with VOC's from off-gassing of these chemicals, particularly in closed spaces, like bedrooms, air conditioned spaces, and even laying on these items for 10-14 hours per day, may be a significant health risk for infants and children. It is hoped that your legislation will call attention to the fact of unhealthy flame retardants, inbedded in the furniture padding and fabrics, must be eliminated to support healthy children.

Sincerely,

Gail Baugh, Lecturer, Textiles
FINA Department
gbaugh@sfsu.edu
415-265-0546