

AB 2998 (Bloom)
Concurrence in Senate Amendments
OPPOSE

Despite amendments taken in the Senate, organizations representing consumer product companies, manufacturers, small businesses and retailers urge you to **OPPOSE AB 2998**, legislation that would restrict the sale of a broad universe of flame retardant chemistries that may be used in juvenile products, mattresses, or upholstered furniture.

Sound Science or Political Science?

Senate amendments, among other things, added to the list of products “exempted” from the ban. Proponents contend these chemicals are extremely toxic yet electronic components, thread and fiber for stitching mattresses together, and certain components of adult mattresses have been exempted. *Before voting on this bill, ask yourself “if these chemicals are so dangerous, why are there are so many exemptions?”*

Determining what products or chemicals considered “toxic or non-toxic” should be grounded in sound science not determined by political expediency. This is exactly why the Legislature created the Safer Consumer Products program at the Dept. of Toxic Substances Control – to identify, prioritize, and, as necessary, evaluate chemicals in consumer products and decide if any regulation is necessary. The Legislature reaffirmed its support for this approach as this year’s budget allocated \$1.2 million in increased funding for DTSC to evaluate more products.

Flame Retardants are Unnecessary?

Proponents contend these chemistries are ineffective, so why have some uses been exempted?

Ignores Existing Product Labeling Law

Existing law requires manufacturers of upholstered furniture to label products informing consumers whether their products contain or do not contain added flame retardants, as well as whether products meet various product safety standards.

Contributes to Patchwork of Laws

AB 2998 conflicts with an existing ordinance recently passed by the City of San Francisco creating a patchwork of laws that unnecessarily increases compliance costs for manufacturers and retailers.

Overlooks Fire Safety

The recent devastation caused by fires in California is a stark reminder of the threat to life and property. Flame retardants are one fire safety tool that can help save lives, reduce fires, and limit property damage. As the Legislature considers other policies to improve fire prevention strategies, is now the time to pass legislation that arguably increases fire risk?

Undermines Product Safety

AB 2998 limits effective product design by not only restricting the vast majority of today’s flame retardant chemicals, but also those that may be developed in the future, regardless of their safety profile and any safety assessments conducted by government authorities.