

9/16/17

My name is Suzanne Price, and I am the CEO of Sprout San Francisco, a chain of children's stores based in San Francisco. Our San Francisco storefront has been open on Union Street for 8 years.

I am here to express my strong support for the proposed "Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture and Juvenile Products" ordinance.

As a retailer of children's products in San Francisco, I hear from parents and caregivers every day expressing concerns regarding the health and safety of the products they use with their children. I share their concerns and work hard to find healthy products for our clients. The proposed ordinance would be a great help to my business and customers by restricting products that contain harmful and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals.

This ordinance is not burdensome for me as a retailer. It will not increase my costs of doing business or increase the cost of these products for the residents of San Francisco. If anything, it may lower my business costs as more products at all price points become available that are free of flame retardant chemicals.

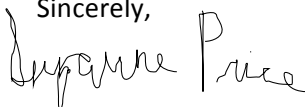
The ordinance would provide great comfort to my customers. Some flame retardants have been associated with serious health effects including cancer, reduced IQ, lower birthweight and neurobehavioral problems. These chemicals have no place in furniture and children's products.

This ordinance makes it possible for all families and retailers, regardless of their knowledge of this issue, to have products that do not contain these harmful and unnecessary chemicals. This is important to ensure that parents of all income levels can buy healthier products for their families. When parents are confident about the products they are considering, they are more likely to purchase the product and this is good for families and for San Francisco retailers.

The ordinance would also help rectify a commonly held, but incorrect assumption made by consumers. Consumers mistakenly think that, when the furniture flammability standard was changed, flame retardants were actually prohibited in these products and that all products are now flame retardant free. As a result, consumers are not aware that children's products can still contain these harmful chemicals. This ordinance would actually make that assumption accurate and protect families by ensuring that these children's products in fact do not contain these chemicals.

I am delighted that the City and County of San Francisco is seeking to restrict the use of these harmful and unnecessary chemicals. The proposed ordinance is an important way for San Francisco to help safeguard the health of our residents, especially children who are the most vulnerable and carry high body burdens of these chemicals. It would give me great pleasure to tell my customers that the products in my store, and indeed in all stores throughout the City and County of San Francisco, do not contain these chemicals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Price". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Suzanne Price