Statement

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NAFRA RESPONDS TO KAISER PERMANENTE DECISION ON FLAME RETARDANTS
Industry Group Says Fire Safety Could Be Compromised

WASHINGTON (June 3, 2014) – In response to Kaiser Permanente’s announcement that it will stop purchasing furniture containing flame retardants, the American Chemistry Council’s North American Flame Retardant Alliance released the following statement:

“It is unfortunate that Kaiser Permanente could be sacrificing fire safety when flame retardants, like all chemicals, are already subject to review by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other regulatory bodies in the U.S. and around the world. Industry continues to innovate to help meet the fire safety needs of modern life. Flame retardants are an important tool in the fire safety tool box that help save lives. According to the National Fire Protection Association, between 2006-2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 17 fires per day (6,240 a year) in health care facilities, 23 percent of which were hospitals or hospices. Obviously, it’s important that health centers use all of the necessary fire tools, including flame retardants, to help protect their staff and patients from the devastation of fire.”

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people’s lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a $770 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation’s economy. It is one of the nation’s largest exporters, accounting for twelve percent of all U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation’s critical infrastructure.