

Good Morning Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ashley Reny and I live at 25 Howe Rd in Fairfield with my husband Troy Reny. We are members of the community group Fairfield Water Concerned Citizens, and I am writing this to testify in support of LD 132. We bought our first home on six beautiful acres of open fields with breathtaking views, just a little over 3 years ago. When we bought our home we thought it was the dream home we had been longing for our entire lives. This was going to be the property that we get married on, grow luscious gardens on, host lots of family gatherings at, and maybe even start a family. All that quickly started to change when we got a call in November 2020, just about a year after we bought our home stating that the DEP needed to come out and test our water for what is known as the “forever chemicals”. After the call, we tried to stay positive and hopeful that this was not happening to us. We just didn’t want this to be true about our new home. A few weeks after our well was tested we got the call from Molly from the DEP stating that she wanted to personally call us to tell us to stop drinking our water, that combined our numbers were over 20,000ppt. Keep in mind that the state says the “safe” limit at the time was 70ppt but is now 20ppt. This was the most devastating news that we could get as first time homeowners. We should be enjoying our beautiful new home, not worrying about how bad our water is contaminated, if it is actually hurting us health wise to live in this home, and if our property is now worth what it was when we bought it. The whole first year that we were using this contaminated water to prepare our food, cook with, drink, give our animals, shower/soak in our hot tub in, water our gardens with, our little loved ones running through the sprinklers, and we were unknowingly poisoning ourselves. That is just contamination through the water; that is not including the contamination that is in our soil, dust, and air due to the spreading of this sludge as well. Let me tell you, it’s hard to enjoy a hot shower, or a cold cup of water or even my new beautiful house knowing it could be killing us.

We are asking you to pass the bill LD 132 out of committee with a recommendation that it be passed by the legislature. The bill would be helpful to the people who have been exposed to these forever chemicals and help give us a piece of mind knowing that we have an affordable way to keep an eye on our health. The cost burden to get our blood levels checked is worrisome to many. The test costs \$600 dollars out of pocket for anyone who wants to get their levels checked. People should not have to worry that they cannot pay their bills or put food on their tables for their families in order to pay to have their health checked, especially ones living on land that is contaminated or that have well water with over 20,000ppt. Living on this land is scary enough for the people, let alone not knowing how they can afford to live plus try to take care of their health. This blood work should be done every year and to know that we have to pay this out of pocket is very stressful. It is also very stressful living with the worry of health issues due to this. I get my blood drawn every year for PFAS plus routine blood work and have recently found out that my cholesterol levels are high and that my kidney functions are low. These are new diagnosis for me since I have lived on this land. The scare of these diagnosis is enough but then to know that they are going to require more money to keep testing to make sure it is not getting worse adds so much more stress. To know that my insurance will cover the

cost of these tests would be a huge relief not only financially but mentally as well. It would ease my mind to know that I have help from my insurance company to watch my health and not feel like I have to choose to pay bills over being able to keep an eye on my health.

Ashley Reny
Fairfield
LD 132

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