



Stacy Brenner
Senator, District 30

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Stacy Brenner against LD 2116, "*An Act to Require Flame-retardant Seats on New School Buses*"

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

February 1, 2024

Senator Chipman, Representative Crafts, and Distinguished Colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Stacy Brenner. I represent Senate District 30, which includes all of Gorham and most of Scarborough. I stand here in strong opposition to LD 2116, "*An Act to Require Flame-retardant Seats on New School Buses*".

I urge you to vote an ought not to pass for the following reasons:

1. Flame-retardant chemicals contain PFAS (forever chemicals) which have a detrimental effect on our environment
2. PFAS on seats in new school buses will have a negative impact on the health of Maine's youth.

As Senate Chair of the Environmental and Natural Resources committee and co-chair of the PFAS Advisory Fund Committee, I've seen firsthand the negative impacts PFAS has on Maine's environment, how PFAS contamination has taken a massive toll on the health and well-being of Mainers and the extraordinary costs to the state to filter contaminated drinking wells, support impacted farmers and manage the unfolding reality of contamination.



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Today's bill would work to exacerbate this issue. Flame retardants are made up of many types of chemicals that do not easily break down. These PFAS chemicals stay in the environment forever.

Children are more vulnerable to toxic effects of forever chemicals, because their brains and other organs are still developing. The National Institute of Health states that "flame retardant chemicals cause adverse human health effects including thyroid disruption, immunotoxicity, and cancer".¹

If the buses school children travel on are covered with PFAS chemicals, the chronic exposure to flame retardants will have a negative effect on brain health and overall well-being of Maine's children.

I urge this committee to strongly recognize the effects flame retardants and PFAS has on our environment and our children. It is for these reasons I urge all committee members to vote Ought not to Pass.

Thank you once again to this committee for providing me with the time to speak today on behalf of my constituents. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

¹ https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/flame_retardants