

In Support of LD 454
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In 2009 my youngest daughter was invited to be part of a study being conducted by the University of New Hampshire in collaboration with Columbia University to examine a link between arsenic exposure in children and development of cognitive skills. Since this study most point to a lower IQ by as much as 5 to 6 points.

The main reason I took part in this study truly was because my daughter wanted the T-Shirt. I had no reason or fear that anything was wrong with our water. I WAS WRONG!!!

I was shocked to learn the level of arsenic in my water was 57 parts per billion, The EPA guideline is 10 parts per billion...

For 8 years my family had been using arsenic laden water for cooking, bathing and drinking.

I was completely unaware the water I gave to my 2 daughters everyday, I made my babies bottles, juice and Kool-Aid with was contaminated with arsenic. Every time I handed my babies that cup I was handing them poison...

Of course as soon as I got the results of the study I looked into the effects this could have on my family. It was then I realized it already had.

My oldest daughter who is now 24 has short term memory deficit and some generalized anxiety.

At 15 my youngest received a diagnosis of high- functioning Asperger's. Though I wonder if this is a correct diagnosis because social and general anxiety can be caused by prolonged arsenic exposure.

I continue to worry about the long term effects that may arise from the 8 years I had no idea our water contained arsenic..

These include but are not limited to diabetes, pulmonary disease, cancers of the skin, kidneys, lungs and bladder.

We do have a reverse osmosis system at the cost of \$800 and the filters that need to be changed every 6 months at the cost of \$100. And then hinging my families health on the hope these filters are effective.

I am not a public speaker, this is not what I do.

I am a Mother and I take that job very seriously. I was unaware for years that I was giving my children something that will forever impact their lives.

But I do know I feel an obligation to get the word out so other mothers and families can be informed about this risk.

We need to protect our children!!!!

We need to make our communities aware this is a real problem. Share what we know and as a community work on what we can do to minimize it's affect on our children..

I am here to ask for your help in doing this ..

Thank you