

LD 1503  
April 19, 2021

As a clinical social worker employed at a pediatric occupational therapy clinic, I saw many children who were working hard every day to compensate for neurodevelopment issues they were born with. I shudder to think that some of their lifelong struggles could have been caused by “forever chemicals.”

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are used in thousands of everyday products including cookware, clothing, food packaging, medical tubing, textiles, and car seats. How can every pregnant woman avoid all these products? They are everywhere. Most of these uses could be substituted for safer alternatives. I believe this is the role of government, to protect the citizens.

We know these chemicals pose significant health risks, particularly for pregnant women and children. PFAS may lower a woman’s chance of getting pregnant and have been associated with neurodevelopmental issues. This is not an issue just for women of child bearing ages. This is an issue that concerns all of us, as a species! Even beyond humans, PFAS chemicals are leaching into the water supply and creating the same ugly effects on animals that cannot seek protection from PFAS toxins.

Please take action by supporting LD 1503, and begin to phase out the use of PFAS in non-essential products: This bill would ban the use of PFAS in carpets, rugs, and fabric treatments by 2023. Major manufacturers and retailers are already taking this action voluntarily. The law grants authority to the DEP to ban the use of PFAS in other categories of products where alternatives are available. What is stopping us?

Beyond all the future health crises that will be created by these persistent chemicals, there is real human suffering. In my opinion, there is no greater calling of our time than to clean up the environment to make it possible to be conceived, born healthy and raised safely. What are we without our health?

Please vote YES on LD 1503! This is legislation you can be proud of supporting. It is doing the right thing—putting people before pollution profits. If you have not yet been exposed to the scope of this issue I can recommend watching Mark Ruffalo and Anne Hathaway in the movie *Dark Waters*, which explains the magnitude of the PFAS issue and how it got so bad.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony.

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LD 1503  
May 3, 2021

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Thank you very much for considering my testimony and for supporting LD 1503 to stop PFAS pollution.

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