

TO: SLegislation@rilegislature.gov
FROM: Donna Policastro on behalf of RI State Nurses Association
Re: S2792
POSITION: STRONGLY OPPOSE

Dear Chairperson: Senator Susan Sosnowski

RISNA is writing in opposition to the PFA'S exemptions articulated in H7621. Our position is based on a review of current scientific literature. The assertion that (PFAS) have NO adverse health effects is contradicted by extensive research, with many studies linking these chemicals to significant risks.

Those risks Include but are not limited to:

- Identified Health Hazards: The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and other agencies have linked PFAS exposure to increased cholesterol levels, changes in liver enzymes, decreased antibody response to vaccines, kidney and testicular cancer, and pregnancy-induced hypertension.
- Developmental Effects: Studies suggest that exposure to specific PFAS can affect fetal and child development, including lower birth weights.
- Immune System Suppression: Research has shown that PFOA and PFOS can suppress immune function and reduce the body's ability to fight infections.
- Persistent Nature: PFAS are known to be highly persistent in the environment and in human bodies (bioaccumulation), leading to long-term exposure concerns.

While some studies have indicated that effects can vary depending on the specific type of PFAS and the level of exposure, the consensus among many health organizations is that PFAS pose a severe risk to human health, necessitating action to reduce exposure. It is also our understanding that RIDOH and RIDEM under the EPA Clean Water/Drinking Water Act regularly include monitoring and testing of drinking water (including wells) for PFAs to ensure that levels are at a below risk level.

Thank you for the committees consideration regarding our concerns.

Respectfully submitted:

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