



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Protecting PFAS Drinking Water Limits S3207-B (Kavanagh)/A.8634-B (Lee)

This bill codifies the science-based federal drinking water limits, also known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), on toxic PFAS chemicals that the federal government is trying to roll back, and will ensure that children, teachers, and families do not lose protections for their health and that our state continues making progress to remove dangerous “forever chemicals” from drinking water.

PFAS, which have been linked to kidney cancer, preeclampsia, and low birth weight, pose a threat to school drinking water. Many schools own and operate their own drinking water wells and function as DOH-regulated water utilities. 26 schools across the state (below) have already exceeded NY’s state-level MCLs on PFOA and PFOS of 10 parts per trillion (ppt) and have been required by DOH to install new filtration or identify a new water source to reduce toxic exposure:

- Columbia: New Lebanon High School
- Dutchess: Dover Middle/High School, Traver Road Elementary School, Randolph School, Maplebrook School, Webutuck Elementary/High School
- Essex: Newcomb Central School
- Putnam: Austin Road Elementary School, Fulmar Road Elementary School, Brewster School Complex, Kent Elementary School, Mahopac Elementary School, Tots N Us Nursery School
- Rockland: Yeshiva Avir Yakov Girls School
- Ulster: Woodstock Day School
- Westchester: Byram Hills High School, Harvey School, JFK High School, John Jay Middle School, Meadow Pond Elementary School, North Salem Middle/High School, Lewisboro Elementary School, Pequenakonck Elementary School, Pound Ridge Elementary School, Somers Intermediate School, West Patent Elementary School

The Biden EPA set MCLs of 4 ppt each on PFOA and PFOS, which are more health-protective than NY’s state-level MCLs, as well as MCLs on PFNA, PFHxS, and GenX. Schools across New York are counting on these strong federal PFAS limits.

This current federal administration, however, has proposed regulations to roll back these science-based limits by allowing water utilities to apply to delay the implementation of the PFOA and PFOS MCLs by two years and scrapping MCLs on the other PFAS entirely. This will leave many New Yorkers at risk of prolonged toxic exposure every time they turn on the tap. EPA has concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to PFOA or PFOS.

New York must follow the lead of other states, like Maine, Vermont, and Wisconsin, who have already codified the federal PFAS limits and insulated their states from EPA’s rollback. New Yorkers deserve the same health protections.



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