



Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

BAN ON PFAS IN EVERYDAY PRODUCTS

A.3556 – ZEBROWSKI

S.5648 – HOLYMAN-SIGAL

Description: Bans the sale of PFAS in textile articles, rugs, fabric treatments, cookware, ski waxes, architectural paints, and cleaning products, beginning in 2025.

Justification

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products for many decades, due to their non-stick, grease-resistant and waterproof properties. PFAS is used in textile articles, rugs, fabric treatments, cookware, ski waxes, architectural paints, cleaning products, and many other products.

PFAS are referred to as “forever chemicals” because they are very persistent, meaning they build up in our bodies and don’t break down in the environment. Due to widespread use of PFAS chemicals in numerous products and industries, PFAS chemicals have become ubiquitous in the environment, including our soil, air, and drinking water. Testing has revealed PFAS in water sources in communities across New York State.

Studies show that human exposure to PFAS is widespread and that nearly all people in the United States have some PFAS compounds in their blood. Exposure to PFAS can lead to higher rates of kidney and testicular cancer, higher cholesterol levels, thyroid problems, adverse developmental effects and decreased immune response in children, and other adverse health impacts.

This legislation bans the sale of PFAS in textile articles, rugs, fabric treatments, cookware, ski waxes, architectural paints, and cleaning products, beginning in 2025. This bill targets products in common use for which there are ample alternatives, and in most cases restrictions in other states or countries.

EPA has issued updated health advisories for certain PFAS chemicals, indicating that there is essentially no safe level of exposure to these chemicals in drinking water. Additionally, EPA has proposed new drinking water standards for six PFAS chemicals that are more stringent than New York’s current regulations. As we work to remove PFAS from our drinking water, it does make sense to continue to allow contamination to continue to occur.

New York State has already passed laws to ban PFAS in firefighting foam, food packaging, carpets, and clothing. To protect public health and drinking water, it is necessary to ban additional unnecessary and dangerous uses of PFAS chemicals.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS

A.3556/S.5648—Ban on PFAS in Everyday Products

CCE is an 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment

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