



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Testing Drinking Water for Emerging Contaminants

S. 6625 – Skoufis

A. 7839 - Gottfried

An ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing a list of emerging contaminants

BACKGROUND

In 2017, the New York State *Emerging Contaminant Monitoring Act* was passed into law, which requires the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to develop regulations to ensure water systems are testing for emerging contaminants, including PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane. This state law is intended to fill a loophole in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, which *does not require* smaller water systems, serving less than 10,000 residents, to test for emerging contaminants. This federal loophole puts New Yorkers health at risk—there are approximately 2.5 million New Yorkers served by smaller water systems that are not required to test for emerging contaminants. Regrettably, the New York State DOH has yet to move forward with regulations to ensure testing for emerging contaminants in smaller water systems.

JUSTIFICATION

Emerging contaminants, such as PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane, have been detected in drinking water supplies across the state through limited testing. These and other emerging contaminants are linked with a broad range of adverse public health impacts. Every New Yorker deserves the right to know if there are dangerous emerging contaminants in their drinking water.

This legislation lists emerging contaminants that all New York public water systems, including smaller systems serving fewer than 10,000 people, must test for in their drinking water. The list is largely drawn from chemicals known to occur in New York from EPA's third Unregulated Monitoring Contaminant Rule (UCMR-3), in addition to new threats like GenX, a PFAS chemical. The NYS DOH would be required to promulgate a list of emerging contaminants for testing within 30 days of the bills enactment. This legislation is critical to protect the drinking water of all New Yorkers.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS

S.6625/A.7839 – TEST DRINKING WATER FOR EMERGING CONTAMINANTS

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