

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

NYS AAP (District II)

The NYS AAP is a Coalition of AAP NY Chapters 1, 2 & 3



AMERICAN COLLEGE  
of NURSE-MIDWIVES



American  
Nurses  
Association  
New York



NEW YORK STATE  
PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Envisioning Healthy People in Healthy Places



Alliance of Nurses for  
Healthy Environments



DOC  
DNP of Color  
Connecting through Diversity



Campaign  
for Safe  
Cosmetics



BCPP.org



SOCIETY OF LATINX NURSES



prevention is the cure™



Council of Public Health  
Nursing Organizations

To the members of the New York State Legislature,

We, the undersigned nursing and health organizations, write to share our support for two bills that propose to ban and restrict dangerous per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in a range of consumer, household, and personal care products. Both pieces of legislation are critical to remove PFAS exposure sources, will support public health, and lead to healthier and more resilient New York communities:

- [A.7738A/S.9073A](#): *Ban PFAS in Consumer Products* will ban the use of PFAS in cookware, dental floss, cleaning products, household textiles and rugs

(including fabric treatments), ski wax, house paint, and children's products.

- [A.2054/S.2057](#): *The Beauty Justice Act* will ban the sale of personal care and cosmetics products that contain intentionally added toxic chemicals, including PFAS, formaldehyde, asbestos, arsenic, cadmium, parabens, benzene derivatives, and more.

There is growing and overwhelming consensus that exposure to PFAS pose risks to our health and the health of our communities. PFAS consist of thousands of synthetic compounds with unique chemical properties that reduce friction and are water and oil-resistant. The properties of PFAS have led to widespread use in industrial processes and consumer products to enhance water, grease and soil repellency. However, these chemicals have strong bonds that prevent their full breakdown in the environment and human body, meaning they are widespread and persistent in our environment, and nearly all people in the United States have measurable amounts of PFAS in their blood.

Known health effects from PFAS exposure include cancer, liver disease, decreased fertility, hormone disruption, developmental harm, and effects on the immune system—including decreased response to vaccines.<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

Health harms from PFAS and the mechanisms of harm remain areas of active research, but the current body of medical literature clearly illustrates that PFAS can cause increases in cholesterol levels and changes in liver enzymes. PFAS compounds cross the placenta during pregnancy and are present in breastmilk<sup>4</sup> posing risks to fetuses and newborn babies. High-levels of PFAS in a mother's

---

<sup>1</sup> National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2022). *Guidance on PFAS exposure, testing, and clinical follow-up*. The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/26156>.

<sup>2</sup> Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. (2024). PFAS Information for Clinicians. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA.

<sup>3</sup> Fenton, S.E., Ducatman, A., Boobis, A., DeWitt, J.C., Lau, C., Ng, C., Smith, J.S., Roberts, S.M. (2021). Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Toxicity and Human Health Review: Current State of Knowledge and Strategies for Informing Future Research. *Environ Toxicol Chem*, 40(3):606-630. <https://doi.org/10.1002/etc.4890>

<sup>4</sup> Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). (May 2021). *Toxicological profile for Perfluoroalkyls*. Last updated March 2020. <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp200.pdf>

blood have been linked to preeclampsia in pregnancy<sup>5</sup> and decreases in birth weight (the more PFAS present in the body, the greater the decrease in birth weight).

New Yorkers are exposed to PFAS mainly through the ingestion of PFAS-contaminated food and water.<sup>6</sup> However, what is underestimated is the totality of exposure routes in the home. New Yorkers are exposed to PFAS through the inhalation of household dust and fumes and dermal contact with stain-resistant carpets and upholstery, cleaning products, dental floss, and cosmetic and personal care products.<sup>7,8</sup> There are also ingestion exposure risks from non-stick cookware and other cooking instruments that can further contaminate food.

It is important to be aware of the recent coordinated attempts across multiple states to change the definition of PFAS or insert exemptions for certain types of PFAS into legislation.<sup>9</sup> The cookware and bakeware industry, in particular, have increased pressure on state legislators to abandon efforts to restrict the use of PFAS in cookware claiming that the form of PFAS (such as PTFE or “Teflon” and other fluoropolymers) used to make cookware, are safe<sup>10</sup> and shouldn't be regulated as PFAS. However, different forms of PFAS are still PFAS. Most of the industries seeking exemptions or changes in the PFAS definition are doing so to preserve their use of certain types of fluorinated gasses and fluorinated polymers (e.g. a nonstick plastic coating on a pan or on certain clothing items) claiming that these types of PFAS are safe. This is false.

---

<sup>5</sup> Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). (May 2021). *Toxicological profile for Perfluoroalkyls*. Last updated March 2020. <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp200.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Lishchenko, I., Evans, S., Zajac, L. (Updated September 9 2022). PFAS - The Forever Chemicals. New York State Children's Environmental Health Centers. <https://nyscheck.org/pfas-the-forever-chemicals/>

<sup>7</sup> American Chemical Society. (August 11, 2025). Research Update: PFAS found in several reusable period products. <https://www.acs.org/pressroom/presspacs/2025/august/research-update-pfas-found-in-several-reusable-period-products.html>

<sup>8</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. Our Current Understanding of the Human Health and Environmental Risks of PFAS. <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas>

<sup>9</sup> See, for example Lindauer, S. PFAS chemicals, Pub. L. No. 1399 (2024). <https://iga.in.gov/pdf-documents/123/2024/house/bills/HB1399/HB1399.02.COMH.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Cookware Sustainability Alliance. (2024). The Facts. <https://www.cookwaresustainabilityalliance.org/resources#facts>

The FDA's approval of PFAS in cookware doesn't mean the chemicals are safe for human health. The FDA has a record of problematic approvals<sup>11</sup> and their process allows chemicals to be used<sup>12</sup> without proper review or revisiting new data. FDA testing of food specifically has not included the chemicals used in food contact materials, nor is it clear that it would capture what could leach out of those materials.

New York's own infamous village of Hoosick Falls, the center of the PFAS water contamination crisis, was polluted by Saint Gobain Performance Plastics, which was coating cookware and other products with PTFE.<sup>13</sup>

There is no medical treatment for PFAS. Healthcare professionals are stuck in no-win situations with patients and community members who have concerns about PFAS, and are limited to counseling community members on ways they can reduce their daily exposures to these dangerous chemicals that remain widespread. However, we know the best way to prevent exposure and the health effects of PFAS is to remove it from consumer products that can substitute safer alternatives. We must stop putting toxic chemicals into consumer products that then, through their lifecycle, enter our environment where humans are exposed to them. That is why we urge you to pass PFAS legislation into law this session.

We urge you to support A.7738A/S.9073A to ban the use of PFAS in cookware, dental floss, household textiles and rugs (including, fabric treatments), ski wax, paint, and children's products and A.2054/S.2057 which will ban the sale of personal care and cosmetics products that contain intentionally added toxic

---

<sup>11</sup> Benesh, M. (February 10, 2022). Research: For decades, the FDA knew toxic 'forever chemicals' were dangerous but continued to allow their use. Environmental Working Group.

<https://www.ewg.org/research/decades-fda-knew-toxic-forever-chemicals-were-dangerous-continued-allow-their-use>

<sup>12</sup> Backhaus, O. & Benesh, M. (April 13, 2022). EWG analysis: Almost all new food chemicals greenlighted by industry, not the FDA. Environmental Working Group.

<https://www.ewg.org/news-insights/news/2022/04/ewg-analysis-almost-all-new-food-chemicals-greenlighted-industry-not-fda>

<sup>13</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. Superfund site: Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, Village of Hoosick Falls, N.Y., Clean Up Activities. <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup&id=0202702>

chemicals, including PFAS, formaldehyde, asbestos, arsenic, cadmium, parabens, benzene derivatives, and more.

Please protect New Yorkers from toxic chemicals by continuing to pass common sense PFAS legislation and vote to protect your community's health.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
Katie Huffling, DNP, RN, CNM, FAAN, Executive Director

American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Michelle L. Munroe DNP, CNM, FACNM, FAAN Chief Executive Officer

American Nurses Association-New York  
Jeanine Santelli, PhD, RN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, Executive Director

Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
Janet Nudelman, Sr. Director of Program and Policy

Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations  
Krista Jones DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, FNAP, FAAN, ELAN Fellow

DNPs of Color  
Danielle McCamey, DNP, ACNP-BC, FAAN

Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition  
Karen Joy Miller

Philippine Nurses Association of America  
Manelita Dayon, MN, BSN, RN

New York State Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Charles Moon, MD FAAP

New York State Public Health Association  
Nisha Beharie

Sierra Leone Nurses Association, Inc.  
Zainabu Sesay-Harrell BSN MSN APRN

Society of Latinx Nurses  
Gloria E. Barrera, MSN, RN, PEL-CSN, PLNC