



**Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Public Health
In support of H.2350/S.1387 An Act restricting toxic PFAS chemicals in consumer products
to protect our health
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The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) has long supported toxic chemical regulation as part of its support for legislation that results in the maximum protection of public health and the environment.

These chemicals, Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), were banned from manufacture in the United States in 2015, but they are still incorporated into many consumer products. PFAS chemicals are the most toxic chemicals still widely used in products. Manufacturers of many kinds of products find these additives convenient in their processes and use them to claim fire resistance (which doesn't turn out to be true in real life situations).

A growing body of science has found that there are potential adverse health impacts associated with PFAS exposure, including liver damage, thyroid disease, decreased fertility, high cholesterol, obesity, hormone suppression and cancer. These chemicals can easily migrate into the air, dust, food, soil and water.

These chemicals have been determined by the EPA to be toxic, and in parallel with efforts such as this, Massachusetts is working towards a tight detection limit for these chemicals in the water supply. To get them out of water, we must first prevent them from getting into the water. These bills will help that.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, with 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, strongly urges this committee to give H.2350/S.1387 a favorable report. The LWV supports the preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment. The PFAS contamination of our bodies and then our water bodies is a critical issue. We need to protect all of us, human and others, from further damage to our health by these chemicals.

Thank you for your consideration.