



**LDA**  
Learning Disabilities  
Association of America



4068 Mount Royal  
Boulevard, Suite 224B,  
Allison Park, PA, 15101

[healthychildrenproject.org](http://healthychildrenproject.org)

412-341-1515

Date: 4/20/26

From: Learning Disabilities Association of America

Re: In strong support of HB 235 and SB 219 PFAS Use & Remediation, Water Testing

The Learning Disabilities Association of America is a non-profit organization of individuals with specific learning disabilities and attention disabilities, and the families and the professionals who support them. LDA provides education and support to families of children and adults with learning disabilities. Our Healthy Children Project program works to eliminate preventable causes of learning, attention, and developmental disabilities.

In the US, 1 in 6 children have a learning or developmental disability.<sup>1</sup> While there are multiple factors that contribute to these disabilities, Project TENDR (Targeting Environmental Neuro-Developmental Risks, which includes more than 50 leading scientists), states that “toxic chemicals contribute to the high prevalence of these neurodevelopmental disorders in children.”<sup>2</sup> **The good news is that these causes are preventable.**

Per- and polyfluoralkyl substances, also known as PFAS chemicals, are man-made chemicals that are found in our food, water, air and products. They are used to make products more resistant to stains, grease and water. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals and they are used in many products including food containers, non-stick cookware, cosmetics and personal care products, electronics, cleaning products, textiles, and some firefighting foams.

PFAS chemicals pose significant health risks at low exposure levels, particularly for pregnant women and children. PFAS are nicknamed “forever chemicals” because they don’t break down. There is widespread human exposure and they can stay in our bodies for years. Biomonitoring studies show that nearly every person in the US, including newborns, have PFAS in their bloodstream, and PFAS has even been found in breastmilk. Infants are formula fed may have another exposure through drinking water, exposing them at a critical time of development.<sup>3</sup>

A growing body of research has indicated that PFAS can interfere with the body’s natural hormones; impair fertility; increase cholesterol levels; affect the immune system; reduce vaccine-induced immune protection in children; and increase the risk of some cancers.<sup>4</sup> Children eat and drink more than adults and may be more sensitive to the harmful effects of PFAS. We need to reduce exposures wherever possible to protect the most vulnerable including children.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Child Development, Developmental Disability Basics, accessed on April 8, 2026. <https://www.cdc.gov/child-development/about/developmental-disability-basics.html>

<sup>2</sup> Project TENDR. 2020-21 Policy Resolution. <https://projecttendr.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Project-TENDR-Policy-Resolution-2020-21.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.



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While there is a lot that we don't know, studies have already shown concerns when it comes to possible neurotoxicity, and we know PFAS bioaccumulates in the body. A 2022 study of brain autopsy samples from people who lived in a PFAS-polluted area showed major accumulation of PFOA in the brainstem region.<sup>5</sup>

House bill 235 and Senate bill 219 would establish enforceable, health-protective, water standards in Alaska state law for PFAS chemicals. These bills would implement the PFAS standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2024. Sadly, the EPA rolled back their own standards, leaving Alaska families unprotected from these PFAS chemicals in their drinking water.

Alaskan lawmakers have the power and responsibility to protect families from harmful PFAS from one of the main routes of exposure – their drinking water.

The health and medical care costs to treat people after being exposed to PFAS are much higher than the cost to test for and treat PFAS chemicals. It's time to protect all children and families from harmful PFAS chemicals by testing and remediating PFAS in drinking water. PFAS chemicals are pervasive chemicals. PFAS accumulates in our brains, our bodies and in the environment. Please act now supporting these bills to test drinking water and remediate when needed.

Sincerely,

Tracy Gregoire  
Director of Healthy Children Project  
Learning Disabilities Association of America

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412021006073>