



Date: April 13, 2023
To: Members of the Michigan House Health Policy Committee
From: Logan Vorce, Government Affairs Legislative Aide
Re: Support for HB 4340-4342 (Filter First)

Chair Rogers and Members of the House Health Policy Committee:

Michigan LCV would like to offer our support for HB 4340, 4341, and 4342, which would require each K-12 school and child care facility to 1) develop a plan to provide clean, lead free water to their students and 2) install NSF lead removal certified water filters at every drinking station. By ensuring that Michigan's children are drinking safe, lead-free water in schools and childcare facilities from the start, HB 4340-4342 will protect them from harmful health effects caused by lead contamination.

Filtering First Will Reduce Childhood Lead Exposure and Associated Health Risks

Schools and childcare centers are meant to be places for children to thrive. But when lead, a harmful neurotoxin, gets into the drinking water of these institutions, it presents a grave risk to the development of young minds and bodies. Children are particularly susceptible to the effects of lead poisoning, as they absorb 4-5 times as much lead as adults, and are more at risk for developing severe health complications due to lead exposure. Requiring each school and childcare center to have lead filters at every drinking water station will protect children from contamination.

Lead Filters Are More Effective and Efficient Than The "Test and Chase" Approach

Installing filters at each drinking water fountain is a more effective and efficient way to protect children from lead exposure than the traditional, "test and chase" method. With the "test and chase" method, drinking water fountains are tested infrequently, allowing children to consume potentially harmful water for months at a time before a problem is found; and even then, it takes more time (and money) to replace lead-containing fixtures and ensure safe drinking water. Installing and maintaining filters, on the other hand, guarantees that children are always drinking safe water and will help the state save \$300 million over the next 10 years.

House bills 4340-4342 are an effective, bi-partisan solution to ensure that Michigan's children are drinking safe, clean water at a critical time in their development. As a result, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters urges that the members of this committee vote "YES" in favor of this bill.

Respectfully,

Logan Vorce
Government Affairs Legislative Aide
Michigan League of Conservation Voters