



**Invest in PFAS Health Impact and Best Practices Education for Physicians.**

July 29, 2020

Testing for Pease is pleased to announce our support of Senator Shaheen's legislation: Invest in PFAS Health Impact and Best Practices Education for Physicians.

We hear from Pease community members firsthand that they have discussed their PFAS blood tests results and their exposure with their doctors and are disappointed and concerned when their providers have never heard of PFAS. Most healthcare providers are not aware of PFAS and the potential health effects associated with this large and persistent class of chemicals due to a lack of environmental health education as part of their traditional medical training.

Sadly, the lack of knowledge re: PFAS in the healthcare community puts exposed community members at a significant disadvantage when they seek help from their providers on how to monitor their health after learning of their PFAS exposure. PFAS have been associated with many adverse health effects impacting multiple systems of the human body. Having a provider with knowledge about PFAS is critical in helping those exposed create a plan to monitor their health closely, diagnose disease early, and try to limit or slow the progression of long-term health effects.

It is stressful for community members to cope with the knowledge they have suffered an environmental exposure; the anxiety and worry are only heightened when community members feel their provider lacks clear answers about how to best monitor their health. Physician education and awareness of PFAS is a significant gap that must be filled immediately. It will take a multi-pronged approach to adequately provide education and resources to physicians so they can better meet the needs of their patients.

One of the first questions community members want to know after learning of their PFAS exposure is "has my health been negatively impacted"? It is critical health care providers are prepared to answer these questions and are educated on the many possible adverse health effects that PFAS can have on the human body so informed decisions can be made about their individual patient's health and next steps.

We are grateful for Senator Shaheen's continued leadership on PFAS issues and her focus on the need for improved PFAS physician education and medical monitoring. This legislation will provide much needed resources to the medical community to raise awareness of PFAS and fill the critical gaps in physician education to better meet the needs of so many exposed to PFAS who are now struggling to maintain their health.

Sincerely,

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