

From: Mike Fisher

RE: SF 450/HF372, SF 834/HF1000, SF 776/HF742

I am writing in support of the PFAS Prevention Package. I work two jobs - one full time job as an appliance repair technician and I own my own business. My business specializes in appliance repair, appliance installation, handyman projects, and outdoor spaces. I started this business to have something to hand down to my sons. My oldest just graduated from high school and is working on becoming a licensed electrician. My youngest is only 15 months old.

I've been learning a lot about PFAS. With the birth of my youngest, I watched my partner struggle to pump. She was only able to produce two ounces at a time, so she was focused on eating a milk producing diet and constantly pumping. It would take her an entire day (while working a full time job) to pump one 8 ounce bottle. To learn that her breast milk delivered PFAS to our new baby was nothing short of devastating. She did everything right and still felt like a failure at keeping our baby healthy and safe.

As a business owner and full time employee I'm working double duty to help provide for my family. I take side jobs after work hours and on the weekends. I do this to be able to afford a nice house in a safe neighborhood and to save for my children's future. But now I'm learning to redefine "safe." Safe doesn't only mean freedom from crime, poverty, access to food, or medical care. Now I have to add toxic chemicals to the list of things that threaten my family's safety.

The lobbyists who zoomed in from across the country to oppose the PFAS Prevention Package in the recent Senate hearing kept talking about giving components of products a free ride. They said that no one comes into contact with components so there's no threat to people from them. I beg to differ. I touch the insides of things that people aren't meant to touch. I fix them by digging around in their innards. Sometimes they cut me, scrape me, bruise me, or even get into my mouth. If the internal component is broken, I dispose of it - which then presents the risk of entering a landfill which will, as we know, inevitably leak into the ground water.

Because of COVID I already come home and go directly to the shower - and I wish I could say that I do that 100% of the time. But sometimes, my baby is standing by the sliding door because he's heard the gate open and he's waiting for me with his little arms up. Of course I swoop him up and hug him. Am I rubbing dangerous toxins onto my baby? Are they getting into my washer when I wash my clothes and then transferring to his? I have no way to know because there's no law saying manufacturers have to disclose if they use PFAS.

The PFAS Prevention Package needs to be passed to protect Minnesotans now and for the future. This threat to our health and our pocketbooks is unsustainable.

Thank you.