



March 16th, 2023

Senator Klein, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Minnesota Senate
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Chair Klein and members,

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the largest voice for professional nursing in the state of Minnesota. We are a leader in both the labor and healthcare communities and a voice for our members on issues relating to the professional, economic, and general well-being of nurses and in promoting the health and well-being of the public.

We are writing in support of SF 834. MNA supports the elimination of all environmental health hazards and believe we all have a responsibility to protect our environment as well as the health of Minnesotans. This bill is a great approach to ensure there is better protection and safety for consumers when purchasing necessary household items.

Science clearly shows that per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) do not break down in the environment and build up in our bodies as we are frequently exposed to these chemicals. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that epidemiologic studies on PFAS exposure demonstrated negative health effects from exposure. Knowing this, MNA feels it is important to ensure that people across Minnesota have access to safe household materials and that we reduce and remove PFAS from consumer goods.

Quality public health is vital for the wellbeing of our communities throughout Minnesota, as we know that individuals from historically marginalized communities suffer disparate impacts when our government fails to intervene to care for them. Removing these chemicals from items like cookware and outdoor gear, ensures that people from all income levels can purchase safer products and better protect themselves and their families.

We also believe there should not be an exemption to allow internal components to include PFAS, as they are unsafe whether used internally or externally and should not be used in any way. An internal exclusion would disproportionately impact service technicians who deal with internal components regularly. They should not be exposed to these materials either and deserve a safe working environment.

MNA strongly believes we need to work harder to eliminate health disparities and promote quality health for all individuals. SF 834 provides a necessary intervention to ensure that companies do not put profits over people by continuing to produce products with PFAS that harm Minnesotans. On behalf of the nurses of Minnesota, we thank Senator Morrison for this important bill, and we encourage the committee pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

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