



## **SB0195 Environment – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions and Requirements**

Presented to the Hon. Paul Pinsky and  
Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
January 28, 2021 11:00 a.m.

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### **POSITION: MONITOR**

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland urges the Health and Government Operations Committee to issue a **favorable report on SB0195 - Environment – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions and Requirements**, sponsored by Senator Sarah Elfreth.

Our organization is an advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice. Preventing harmful exposures to environmental chemicals is a priority for reproductive health professionals because exposure to PFAS and other chemicals can have serious, life-long and inter-generational impacts on reproductive and sexual health. SB0195 prohibits the manufacturing, selling, and use of certain products containing PFAS chemicals including fire-fighting foam, rugs and carpets, and food packaging. Pollution from PFAS chemicals can be found in water, air, soil, dust, and food and they are primarily absorbed through oral intake and inhalation.<sup>1</sup>

Extensive research has demonstrated that chemical exposures, especially during critical and sensitive windows of development such as pregnancy, can lead to a myriad of health consequences that can manifest across individual's lifespan and potentially be transmitted to future generations. Chemical exposure during pregnancy can cross the placenta and accumulate in the fetus, exposing the fetus to pollutants before birth. Researchers have found a correlation between exposure to PFAS chemicals during pregnancy and adverse reproductive health outcomes including pregnancy-induced hypertension and preeclampsia, reduced birthweight, reduced fetal growth, and increased risk for thyroid disease in children.<sup>2</sup> These health outcomes can cause enduring mental and physical trauma to pregnant persons and the infants they deliver. Substantial research has shown that low birth weight infants may be more at risk for many health problems; some may become sick in the first six days of life or develop infections, others can suffer from long term problems such as delayed motor skills and social development or learning disabilities.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, [PFAS chemicals are persistent](#), remaining in the environment and posing risk to the health of humans for many years even after their production is discontinued.

By prohibiting the production, sale, and use of certain products containing PFAS chemicals, SB0195 seeks to mitigate the long-term adverse human health consequences associated exposure to PFAS chemicals as a result of water and air pollution. For these reasons, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland **urges a favorable committee report on SB0195**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> Fei, Chunyuan et al. "Perfluorinated chemicals and fetal growth: a study within the Danish National Birth Cohort." *Environmental health perspectives* vol. 115,11 (2007): 1677-82. doi:10.1289/ehp.10506

<sup>2</sup> Wang, Aolin et al. "Environmental influences on reproductive health: the importance of chemical exposures." *Fertility and sterility* vol. 106,4 (2016): 905-29. doi:10.1016/j.fertnstert.2016.07.1076

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reproductive and Birth Outcomes and the Environment. Retrieved <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/showRbBirthOutcomeEnv>