FILTER FIRST...TEST LATER

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SAFE WATER INITIATIVE
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
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The Natural Resources Defense Council works to safeguard the earth — its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. We combine the power of more than three million members and online activists with the expertise of some 600 scientists, lawyers, and policy advocates across the globe to ensure the rights of all people to the air, the water, and the wild.
WHY REGULATE LEAD IN SCHOOL WATER?

• Lead is a poisonous heavy metal. Young children and fetuses are most susceptible to the adverse effects of lead.

• It can be present in our drinking water because it is contained in plumbing fixtures, fittings, pipes, and solder.

• Kids can spend over 35 hours per week at school.

• Women comprise a majority of the staff at schools and child care facilities, and many of them are of child-bearing age or can be pregnant.
THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF LEAD

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the World Health Organization all agree that there is no safe level of lead exposure.
EPA DOESN’T REGULATE LEAD IN DRINKING WATER IN SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES

• EPA only has a voluntary program.

• Unless a school or child care facility operates its own drinking water system, EPA does not require them to reduce lead in drinking water.
WHY FILTER FIRST?

Testing programs demonstrate that lead is prevalent in school drinking water, and the lead levels can change a lot from day to day.

- In 2018, Indiana spent $4.4 million to sample 915 schools. Lead over 15 ppb was found at 61% of schools, and 40% of samples were over 1 ppb.

- Over the last decade, Los Angeles Unified School District has spent over $30 million on lead testing and repairs and is still detecting lead in drinking water.
NRDC analyzed recent New York testing data and found that:

• 82% of public schools reported one or more taps that tested above the state lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) a level which is not based on health impacts.

• More than 56% of the state’s public schools tested above the 15 ppb action level at 5% or more of their taps.

• Almost 2% of New York State public schools found elevated levels for at least half of the taps tested.

• 16 public schools exceeded 15 ppb at every outlet tested.
VIRTUALLY NO INSTALLED PLUMBING FIXTURES ARE COMPLETELY LEAD FREE.

• Lead solder was banned in 1986.

• Materials manufactured through 2013 could have up to 8% lead and be considered “Lead Free.”

• Materials sold beginning in 2014 can have up to 0.25% lead and still be marked “Lead Free.”
NRDC’S FILTER FIRST! Model Bill Requires

• Schools and day care facilities to install and maintain filters on designated drinking water sources.
• Testing once per year after filters are installed.
• Remediation if filtered water still contains lead.
**MICHIGAN PROJECTED COSTS**
**FILTER FIRST V. TEST + PARTIAL FIXTURE REPLACEMENT**

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<th>Year One - Filter First</th>
<th>10 Year Cost - Filter First</th>
<th>10 Year Cost – Test &amp; 10% replacement</th>
<th>10 Year Cost – Test &amp; 20% replacement</th>
<th>10 Year Cost – Test &amp; 30% replacement</th>
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QUESTIONS?
NRDC CONTACTS

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