

March 23, 2026

To Rep. Josh Heintzeman and the Committee,

I am writing to **express my strong opposition to HF 4257**. As a PhD in Environmental Health Nursing and a member of the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments and the MN Cancer Alliance, I view this legislation as a direct threat to public health.

Above all, I am a nurse. My core professional duty is to advocate for the safety of the individuals and communities I serve. HF 4257 fails this duty by prioritizing industrial interests over the biological well-being of Minnesotans.

For nearly 25 years, I have served as an oncology and hospice nurse. At the Mayo Clinic, I sat at the bedsides of patients facing devastating diagnoses, listening to the same haunting question: "Why did this happen?" I remember a farmer's wife asking if the pesticide residues in their home caused her husband's leukemia. I've held the hands of patients who lived "perfectly healthy" lives, yet were blindsided by cancer. While some risk factors are within an individual's control, PFAS are not. These "forever chemicals" are an invisible, involuntary burden on the human body.

The science is clear: PFAS persist indefinitely in our environment and accumulate in our blood. From a clinical perspective, we are seeing the direct correlation between these chemicals and:

- Systemic Illness: Liver damage, thyroid disease, and infertility.
- Oncology: Increased risks of various cancers.
- Pediatric Risks: Lowered IQ, learning disabilities, and compromised immune systems in our most vulnerable population—children.

Our healthcare system is already pushed to its breaking point. We are strapped for resources, and our providers are exhausted. We do not need more patients; we need better prevention.

HF 4257 places consumerism and corporate shielding above the physical health of our communities. **I urge you to stand with healthcare professionals and the families we care for by voting "NO" on this bill.**

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the health of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Catherine Graeve

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