

Members of the Michigan House Health Policy Committee,

We are 9th grade students at Everett High School in Lansing. We are a diverse group of learners from here in Lansing, as well as all across the globe. We are passionate about many different things, from arts, to sports, to math. We all care about our school and the Lansing community as a whole.

For the past several weeks, we have been investigating water. We've learned why water is so important, and what the dangers are of not protecting our water. Unfortunately, we've discovered that our own water isn't being taken care of. We are here to share our experience with this science so far.

During earth/space science class at Everett, we investigated potential water contaminants at our school. We did this by analyzing lead tests provided by EGLE in 2022. This report shows elevated levels of lead across our school, even in some drinking fountains. Only 12 of the 37 water sources at our school were tested for lead during the last test. Of those 12 sites, 7 of them contained lead, which is 58% of samples. These results concerned us, which led us to further testing.

We learned how to read water quality reports. We collected water samples from across the school and tested them for copper, pH, nitrates, phosphates, and iron. Of particular importance to this committee is copper. We found a mean copper level of 1.35 ppm, with a standard deviation of 1.72. The EPA lead and copper rule says that if 10% of samples contain more than 1.3 ppm of copper, then additional action is needed. Our school water system needs action. We need to install filters to make our water safe to drink.

Many of us don't drink the water at our own school. Not having data on many of the sources is scary. We think it is safer to go without water during the school day. By not drinking water, we also face dehydration on a regular basis.

Filter First would help ensure the health and safety of students like us. It will make us feel better about the water we're drinking. It will allow us to be hydrated throughout the day, so we can focus on our learning. We want to encourage this committee to send bills 184 and 185 to the house floor. This will help create a future where ALL our water is filtered by giving our school funding to make it a reality.

Thank you for allowing us to be here with you all today to share our experience. We hope you consider us, the kids of Lansing, when you consider Filter First.

Sincerely,
Everett High School earth/space science students

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