



---

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Education Committee

FROM: Jeff Fannon, Executive Director, Vermont-NEA

DATE: March 12, 2019

SUBJECT: S.40 – Lead Testing

---

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you about S.40 and the safety of students and staff in our schools. We support S.40 for very obvious reasons—we do not support lead in drinking water. Lead is a known dangerous substance and young students and staff in our schools should not be exposed to it.

The American Academy of Pediatrics calls for a 1 part per billion standard, and we believe those experts should be respected in this matter. Erring on the side of caution is the right thing to do and amending S.40 in this regard is what we believe is the right thing to do.

As for costs and timing of testing and remediation, those details should be respected but above all else, the safety of students and staff needs to be paramount. Students spend sizable chunks of time in schools and staff spend years in the same schools. Delay can be costly to the health of students and staff, and as we see special needs of students increasing we ought to do all we can to ensure that students do not ingest lead from school outlets.