



May 8, 2026

RE: Written Testimony in Support of Pennsylvania Senate Bill 759

“An Act Amending the Public School Code of 1949 to allow certified point-of-use filters, establish the Safe Schools Drinking Water Fund, and impose related duties on the Department of Environmental Protection.”

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Submitted by:

Matthew Windrum, Director, State Government Affairs, Policy & Advocacy,
Plumbing Manufacturers International

Date:

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Chair Farry, Vice Chair Argall, Minority Chair Kearney and Members of the Committee. On behalf of Plumbing Manufacturers International, thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your attention to this important issue.

As the trade association representing the manufacturers of 90% of the plumbing fixtures and fittings sold in the US, Plumbing Manufacturers International is well-placed to attest to the benefits of water filters for drinking fountains, bottle-filling stations, and faucets for drinking water in addressing the problem of childhood exposure to lead.

PMI represents several manufacturers of lead removing bottle filling/drinking fountain systems, including Haws, Sloan and Zurn Elkay, and other manufacturers that make under-sink lead filtering equipment, including Kohler. Additional suppliers of point-of-use lead removing filters include Oasis (Culligan) and Murdock.

The risks of lead exposure to children

It is well-established that young children are particularly vulnerable to lead because the negative health effects of lead exposure occur at lower levels in children than adults. The US Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Pennsylvania Department of Health all agree that for children, even low levels of

exposure to lead have been linked to lower IQ, damage to the brain and nervous system, learning and behavioral difficulties, slowed growth and hearing problems. And since many public schools have older infrastructure, school drinking water is particularly vulnerable to lead contamination.

The benefits of point-of-use filters

In order to address these risks, Plumbing Manufacturers International strongly supports SB 759, which would ensure that drinking water in Pennsylvania's schools is safe by requiring that drinking water outlets be equipped with certified lead removing point-of-use filters, and by establishing the Safe Schools Drinking Water Fund.

The installation of point-of-use filters certified to NSF/ANSI 53 standard for lead reduction is a direct and cost-effective way to address the problem of lead in drinking water, no matter the age of the school building nor the composition of its plumbing infrastructure.

In a time where replacing the entire plumbing infrastructure of old school buildings is often cost-prohibitive, filtered faucets and bottle-filling stations, as well as under-sink point-of-use filters are an integral part of the solution. By contrast, repeated 'test-remediate-retest' strategies can become expensive and unpredictable, particularly in older buildings where lead sources may exist deep within aging infrastructure. So while a filtration plan like SB 759 is most importantly a critical step to safeguarding children's health and well-being, it is also a very cost-effective and prudent use of taxpayer dollars.

Conclusion

By passing SB 759, Pennsylvania can take a practical, science-based step toward protecting children, strengthening public confidence in school drinking water, and advancing the shared responsibility of ensuring clean, safe drinking water for future generations.

For the reasons enumerated above, we respectfully urge the Committee to advance this bill.

Sincerely, Matthew P. Windrum

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