

## United States Senate

April 30, 2019

Mikel L. Walters, M.A., Ph.D.  
Scientific Review Official, NCIPC, CDC  
4770 Buford Highway NE  
Mailstop F-63  
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Dr. Walters,

I am writing in support of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)/Division of Environmental Health's (DEH) application for funding under the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) Multi-Site Study of the Health Implications of Exposure to PFAS-Contaminated Drinking Water (CDC-RFA-TS-19-002).

This cooperative agreement will allow MDHHS to make meaningful advances in understanding the potential health consequences associated with exposure to PFAS in drinking water impacting Michigan communities. I strongly support this effort, which will involve the implementation of a health study in which concentrations of blood PFAS and health-related lab tests (e.g. thyroid function, cholesterol levels and immune function) will be measured in Michigan residents residing in areas where either municipal or private wells were identified with PFAS. The potential sites of major investigation include the City of Parchment in Kalamazoo County, and North Kent County, Michigan. Parchment's municipal water system had to be shut down emergently due to high PFAS levels, and PFAS was found in multiple private wells impacting household drinking water in Kent County residences due to nearby PFAS contaminated dump sites.

MDHHS has experience assessing PFAS contaminated sites and is particularly well-suited to carry out the objectives of this project with expertise from toxicologists, epidemiologists, and health educators among others. They also have strong partnerships with the local health departments representing the affected communities. The outcomes of this project will allow MDHHS to better interpret future exposure assessments and contribute to the greater public health knowledge on PFAS chemicals.

I am confident that MDHHS' application for funding through the ATSDR Multi-Site Study of the Health Implications of Exposure to PFAS-Contaminated Drinking Water grant program will receive all appropriate consideration. If I may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Dickow of my Grand Rapids office at (616) 233-9150. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator