



# Your Blue Scarf- What does it mean?

## Working in Harmony

### For Developmental Disabilities services & supports!

Community advocates for developmental disability (DD) issues will be seen each Wednesday all around the capitol wearing blue and sporting their blue scarves with a variety of pins and buttons. We would like to provide you with your own blue scarf with two buttons to get you started. Throughout this legislative session, community advocates will be stopping by and bringing you additional pins and buttons to add to your scarf. Each addition will represent another community organization and/or message. Please add them to your scarf to let them know you appreciate their voices.



### Our 2018 Priorities:

- ♪ Fund Community Residential, NOT RHCs
- ♪ Amend and Add Definitions to 71A
- ♪ DD Supported Housing
- ♪ Stabilize the Network of Providers
- ♪ Parent to Parent (P2P)
- ♪ Community Inclusion
- ♪ Downsize and Close RHCs
- ♪ Supported Decision-making
- ♪ Alternatives to Guardianship
- ♪ Wrongful Death
- ♪ Coordination of Early Intervention Services
- ♪ Fully Fund Special Education
- ♪ Transition Planning for Students
- ♪ Language Access in Special Education
- ♪ Consumer Directed Training
- ♪ Housing Trust Fund DD Set-aside
- ♪ Toxins in Foods Kids Love?
- ♪ Playing with Toxins?
- ♪ Expand the Personal Needs Allowance
- ♪ Strengthen TANF, HEN, & ABD

## Toxics in Food Kids Love? HB 2658/SB 6396



Many food packaging materials, especially those used for fast-food wrappers and microwave popcorn bags, are made with a class of chemicals linked to a variety of health effects, including developmental disabilities. These industrial chemicals are commonly referred to as PFAS chemicals.



The widespread use of PFAS chemicals and the evidence that these chemicals are harmful to our health has prompted worldwide calls to end the use of these substances. Washington state has the opportunity to protect public health by eliminating the unnecessary use of these chemicals in food packaging with HB 2658/SB 6396.

### *Widespread Use and Exposure*

Recent testing by the Washington Department of Ecology found PFAS chemicals in all 30 microwave popcorn bags tested. Ecology's testing found PFAS chemicals in 42% of fast food wrappers—**showing widespread use of these chemicals, but also broad adoption of alternatives.** PFAS chemicals are designed to repel both oil and water, but they are so highly persistent that scientists call them “virtually indestructible.” Migration of these chemicals from food packaging is an expected source of exposure.

### *Building Up In Our Bodies*

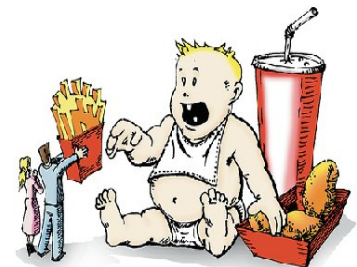
PFAS chemicals are extremely persistent in people, wildlife, and the environment, and some of them build up in people and animals. They migrate out of consumer products into household dust and air, are released by industries, and contaminate drinking water and food. Once they are in our bodies, they stick around—with half-lives in people of at least three years. Scientists have found certain PFAS chemicals in the blood of nearly all people tested.

### *Health Effects*

Exposure to these chemicals is linked to developmental disorders in utero, kidney and testicular cancer, hormone disruption, liver toxicity, harm to the immune system, and reduced birth weight.

### *Safer Alternatives Are Available*

Companies are switching to safer alternatives. A European company has developed a PFAS-free microwave popcorn bag that is currently in use. Since 58% of fast food wrappers tested DID NOT contain PFAS chemicals, it obviously does not need to be used. While the FDA has withdrawn approval for three PFASs, it still allows over 90 PFASs to be used in food contact materials. We need all PFASs out of food packaging.



**Please Pass HB 2658/SB 6396!**

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