



Consumer Federation of America

**Statement of Courtney Griffin, Director of Consumer Product Safety for
Consumer Federation of America
before the
Massachusetts Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
in Support of S.538, An Act Relative to Clean Lighting and
H.777, An Act Relative to Clean Lighting**

October 31, 2023

Dear Members of Massachusetts Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy:

My name is Courtney Griffin, and I am the Director of Consumer Product Safety for the Consumer Federation of America. Founded in 1968, CFA is one of the nation's largest consumer organizations working in the consumer interest through research, advocacy and education. CFA represents over 250 national, state and local groups. For more than 20 years, CFA has supported and promoted cost-effective energy and water efficiency policies and practices at the federal, state and local levels. I'm pleased to comment in support of S.538, an Act relative to clean lighting, and H.77, an Act relative to clean lighting. Quite simply, the proposed changes will benefit Massachusetts residents and businesses by saving them money on their utility bills—while also benefiting the environment.

This legislation is a sensible step. First, transitional sales of common fluorescent light bulbs to LEDs will save the people of Massachusetts money. More cost-efficient alternatives exist. LEDs do not need to be replaced as frequently. Because LEDs are twice as efficient as fluorescents, LEDs will generate significant electricity bill savings. Second, LEDs use approximately half the electricity of their fluorescent counterparts. Transitioning to LEDs can reduce emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. Third, fluorescents are an unnecessary toxic risk to human health. Mercury, which is found in fluorescent bulbs, is a known neurotoxin and environmental threat. The proposed changes will cut costs and reduce unnecessary risks to consumers.

In closing, now is the time for Massachusetts to act and join other states phasing out fluorescent light bulbs for a safer, more cost-efficient future. CFA urges you to adopt this pro-consumer legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Courtney Griffin".

Courtney Griffin