



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

TESTIMONY ON: Environment - Playground Surfacing Materials - Prohibitions

POSITION: FAVORABLE

HEARING DATE: March 26, 2024

BILL CONTACT: Delegate Michele Guyton

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as in several nearby districts. DTMG supports legislation that keeps all residents healthy and safe in a clean environment. Therefore, DTMG strongly supports HB1147 to prohibit playground surface materials that contain highly toxic PFAS compounds or lead. This important legislation will keep our youngest residents healthy and safe.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS, are used in a wide variety of consumer products, from personal care products and non-stick pans to car seats and carpets. They are also used by industries to make things greaseproof and water resistant. Recently published scientific studies have shown that playing on surfaces containing PFAS results in skin exposure.

Exposure to even low levels of PFAS is linked to a range of health problems, including:

- Kidney damage, leading to chronic kidney disease or kidney cancer,
- Reduced antibody responses to vaccinations in both children and adults, and
- Increased risk of gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, low birth weight, and childhood obesity

There is also no safe level of lead for children.

The best way to address PFAS and lead contamination in children is to prevent the contamination in the first place. Children should not be playing on surfaces containing these known toxins.

Therefore, DoTheMostGood strongly recommends a **FAVORABLE** report on HB1147.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
DoTheMostGood
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599