

**Written Testimony Submitted for the Record to the Maryland House
Health and Government Operations
For the Hearing on
Pesticides -PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions (HB386)
February 12, 2025**

Favorable

Free State PTA represents over 70,000 volunteer members and families in over 500 public schools. Free State PTA is composed of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business as well as community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and family engagement in Maryland. As the state's premier and largest child advocacy organization, Free State PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families, schools and communities and a strong advocate for public education.

PFAS are toxic chemicals that persist in the environment and cause numerous life-altering health issues. PFAS-containing pesticides contribute to the proliferation of PFAS contamination in people and our environment. Currently [66 chemicals](#) meet the definition of PFAS and are used as pesticide active ingredients in the U.S. Even very low levels of PFAS exposure have been linked to kidney, testicular, prostate, and breast cancer, birth defects and developmental damage in infants, childhood obesity, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, and impaired immune function. Exposure to PFAS also has been found to [diminish the immune response to vaccines](#).

There are hundreds of alternatives to PFAS “forever pesticides” already registered in Maryland for sales and use that can replace known PFAS-containing pesticides for pests of concern. This bill is a reasonable and important step towards protecting the health and welfare of Marylanders, our environment, crops, fish and wildlife. Action is necessary to fill the void caused by a slow-moving federal government, which may likely be further delayed by intentions to cut EPA budget by \$500 million, taking it back to 1991 capacity over the next four years. This underscores why states' need to halt unnecessary PFAS contamination at their sources, including banning it from pesticides. Minnesota has already passed PFAS pesticide laws preventing pesticides known to contain these forever chemicals from being sold. Industry efforts in 2024 were successful in weakening Maine's 2023 law that restricted PFAS pesticides. We've done this before, with other known, toxic pervasive agents, like lead, asbestos, chlorpyrifos, and DDT.

As parents, we are always trying to keep our children out of harm's way. Parents and caregivers are upset that PFAS can even be found in household items. It's common sense to stop selling a known toxic agent that is being liberally applied in outdoor settings throughout the state – especially when there are known replacements. Lets stop exposing Marylanders to these harmful agents, especially our children who's bodies are smaller and more susceptible to toxic chemicals.

Free State PTA urges a favorable vote in support of House Bill 583.

Testimony is presented on behalf of

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