



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT OF HB 386

## **Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions**

**TO:** Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair, Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair and the members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

**DATE:** February 12, 2025

This bill addresses the use of harmful chemicals known as PFAS. They are also known as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down in the environment. PFAs are dangerous to human health because their presence is linked to cancer, reproductive and developmental harms, and reduced effectiveness of vaccines. PFAS are used in non-stick cookware like pans, fabric stain-protective coatings, fast-food packaging, etc. PFAs have been found in the tap water of 49 states across the U.S. This bill addresses the use of PFAS, thereby helping to protect the residents of Maryland from chemicals that are linked to cancer and other health issues. We believe that, as people of faith, we have an obligation to protect God’s creation, Earth, and the children of God who inhabit it.

We respectfully request a favorable report.

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