

**House Health & Government Operations Committee
HB386 – Pesticides – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibition
In Support
February 12, 2025**

In 2022, I participated in a study as a community liaison with the National Academies of Science. The work resulted in the publication of their report, *Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing, and Clinical Follow-Up*. The National Academies says there is an increased risk of adverse health effects if the total of these seven compounds exceeds 2 ng/mL: PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFDA, PFUnDA, and MeFOSAA. My blood has 42.16 ng/ml of these compounds - 21 times the 2 ng/ml threshold.

This legislation halts the proliferation of an avoidable source of PFAS exposure –PFAS-pesticides, where the actual active ingredient is on the label is a PFAS. We must turn off the tap for all PFAS entering Maryland’s environment, especially from an avoidable source when there are suitable alternatives.

Once PFAS from pesticide applications are released to soils they may move from the soil to the air, or from the soil to groundwater – or surface water. They poison everything along the way.

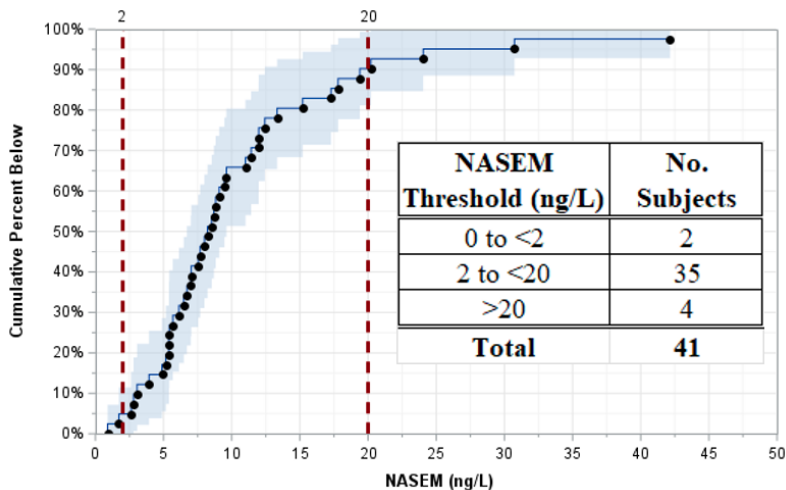
The fate and transport of all PFAS may involve sorption, precipitation, deposition, advection, recharge, dispersion, diffusion, and leaching. The one quick takeaway is that the carbon-fluorine bond that characterizes all PFAS compounds is the strongest bond in chemistry and has the propensity to damage life forms. This equates to a great threat to all of us, another terribly inconvenient truth, despite temporal partisan differences or financial liabilities.

I volunteered to participate in the PFAS blood testing study performed by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health last year. My results are shown below along with a chart describing the cumulative results of the study. I had the highest combined total of PFAS in my blood of those surveyed.

My blood

PFAS	ng/ml
PFOS	32.3
PFOA	2.80
PFHxS	2.85
PFNA	2.53
PFDA	0.80
PFUnA	0.88

Total 42.16



“PFAS Contamination in Human Blood” by Ana Maria Rule, PhD.

At 42.16 nanograms per milliliter (ng/ml), my poisoned blood topped the chart among the study participants.

I was born in Maryland in 1955, and I have lived here all my life. I’m not exactly sure how these chemicals got into my blood, but I think it is related to the seafood I had been eating up until four years ago. I regularly ate the oysters from my oyster bed in St. Inigoes Creek behind my house, and I feasted on the crabs and the rockfish from the creek and the St. Mary’s River in St. Mary’s City. I live close to a Navy base that used firefighting foams containing the chemicals.

In 2021, I had the seafood from my beach tested by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). They used Eurofins Laboratories, the same company used in the Johns Hopkins study. They reported 2,070 parts per trillion (ppt) of total PFAS in oysters; 6,650 ppt in crabs, and 23,100 ppt in rockfish. In the meantime, the EPA is trying to keep many of these compounds under 4-10 ppt in drinking water.

The Maryland Department of the Environment reported finding 94,200 ppt of PFOS in a Largemouth Bass up the Potomac River from me. They say all these varieties of seafood are OK to eat.

I don’t know exactly how these carcinogens have impacted my health. I suffer from heart disease, and I have had double bypass heart surgery and stents inserted in my clogged arteries on three occasions. Lots of heart attacks and ambulance trips. I have to watch my thyroid levels.

I told my primary care physician and my cardiologist that they ought to prioritize screening for dyslipidemia, (*excessive fats in the blood*), to conduct thyroid function testing, and to assess for symptoms of kidney cancer including with urinalysis. I told them they should assess for signs of testicular cancer and ulcerative colitis based on the National

Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, (NASEM) study on PFAS. They had never heard of PFAS and they were unaware of the NASEM study. Other regions of the country, I believe, are more on the ball.

The majority of participants in the Johns Hopkins study had blood levels that exceeded 2 ng/ml. I hope these folks are seeking medical advice, even if they have to explain the problem to their physicians.

Mosquito Spraying in my neighborhood

I don't know if any of the 66 PFAS pesticides addressed in SB345/HB386 are in my blood, but I suspect they may be. Our neighborhood of 64 homes on the Rosecroft peninsula of St. Mary's City participates in the Maryland Department of Agriculture's mosquito spraying program, along with 2,100 communities throughout Maryland. One of the pesticides used for mosquito control is a PFAS pesticide.

Sometimes, after the pesticides are sprayed, torrential downpours may carry the toxins along the culverts on both sides of Rosecroft Road to a drainage ditch along the side of our property. Torrents of raging brown water travel several hundred feet to empty directly into St. Inigoes Creek at our beach, potentially threatening aquatic, and human life.

Can you guarantee that this program is not jeopardizing my health?

We must limit exposure for ourselves and for future generations. However, time is running out. It's just a matter of time and a question of the degree of suffering and death that will be unnecessarily endured by Marylanders. I urge your support for SB386, which turns off a tap that many of us are unknowingly exposed to, and thankfully for which there are alternative and effective products.

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