



Testimony of Michele M. Twilley, DrPH, CIH on
Behalf of the
American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA)
Before the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
In Support of House Bill 1428
March 5, 2020

Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Delegate Michael A. Jackson
Vice Chair, Appropriations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Good Afternoon Chairwoman McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michele Twilley, and I am the owner of Aria Environmental, Inc., a small woman-owned business located in Sykesville, Maryland. I am a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH), a Board member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), a Past President of AIHA's Chesapeake Local Section, and serve on AIHA's Indoor Environmental Quality Committee. I have decades of experience remediating mold in educational and other buildings.

I am here to testify in support of House Bill 1428, which addresses mold hazards in higher education facilities. AIHA also supports the related bill, HB 1052.

Mold can present a real and significant threat to people – especially infants and children, pregnant women, people with respiratory conditions, such as asthma or allergies, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. Many of these types of people regularly visit institutions of higher education.

Even if you're totally healthy, exposure to mold can result in runny nose, wheezing, coughing, sinusitis, burning eyes and skin rashes. For people with allergies or immune system disorders, the impacts of mold can be severe. These aren't just inconveniences; if left untreated, mold can lead to the development of worsening respiratory illness including asthma exacerbation and fungal infections of the lung.

When there's extensive mold in a building, you need to call a professional, such as an industrial hygienist. You need to understand the underlying cause of mold growth which is typically water related and correct that condition. Furthermore, mold can easily come back if the affected area isn't cleaned properly. If hidden mold sources are suspected,

you need an indoor environmental quality specialist like an industrial hygienist to help identify the root cause of the problem and then conduct air sampling and interpret sample results.

For these reasons, AIHA commends your committee for addressing this problem with House Bill 1428, and I look forward to working with you on this, and other issues to help protect Marylanders. Thank you for your time.