



Committee: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Bill Number: HB 229

Title: Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition

Hearing Date: February 12, 2020

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 229 – Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition*. This bill would prohibit using chlorpyrifos in Maryland, including in seeds and insecticides.

Chlorpyrifos is an insecticide widely applied to food crops, and as a result, its residue can be found in many foods. This is very concerning to MNA since chlorpyrifos is a neurotoxin that can interfere with brain development in children. In spite of these and other health concerns, in 2017 the Environmental Protection Agency chose to allow the continued use of chlorpyrifos even though it failed to identify any level at which using the insecticide is considered safe.

In the meantime, the European Union recently banned the use of chlorpyrifos for plant application, citing concerns related to human health, particularly in the area of genotoxicity and developmental neurotoxicity. Absent such protection at the federal level, we must take steps to protect our citizens – especially our children – by banning the use of chlorpyrifos.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ References: Environmental Protection Agency. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/chlorpyrifos>

European Commission. Retrieved from https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/approval_active_substances/chlorpyrifos_chlorpyrifos-methyl_en