



## **HB299 – Environment - Synthetic Turf – Chain of Custody**

### **Testimony before Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

**March 23, 2023**

**Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Ms. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Crystal Konny, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB299**, Environment – Synthetic Turf – Chain of Custody bill. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Delegate Lehman for sponsoring this important legislation.

This legislation will require the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to develop a system to track the chain of custody for synthetic turf fields and turf infill in Maryland from installation to use, repurposing, recycling, and disposal, will require custodians of the fields to report to MDE, and will require MDE to post the information publicly. Public disclosure will serve as a deterrent for improper disposal and illegal dumping, which is currently a real problem.

Synthetic turf playing fields only last an average of 8 to 10 years, and produce a huge volume of waste when they're replaced. The materials in synthetic turf carpet systems contain aquatic and human toxins. When improperly disposed of and uncontained, especially near waterways, these materials pose risks to humans, wildlife, and the environment. There is no official inventory of the number or location of synthetic turf playing fields in Maryland or where used fields have gone. This bill will address that problem.

For all of these reasons, please pass the Synthetic Turf Chain of Custody bill so that MDE will begin inventorying and tracking the chain of custody for synthetic turf fields.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.**

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