

**Written Testimony Submitted for the Record to the Maryland Senate
Education, Energy, and the Environment
For the Hearing on
Environment - Synthetic Turf - Chain of Custody- HB457
March 20, 2024
SUPPORT**

Free State PTA represents over 70,000 volunteer members and families in over 500 public schools. Free State PTA is composed of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business as well as community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and family engagement in Maryland. As the state's premier and largest child advocacy organization, Free State PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families, schools and communities and a strong advocate for public education. ***House Bill 457, Environment - Synthetic Turf - Chain of Custody - aligns with Free State PTA's environmental legislative agenda.***

A founding principle of Free State PTA's mission is to promote the safety and well-being of all children and youth, which includes a healthy environment. House Bill 457 is consistent with this principle in that it requires that the department of the environment shall establish a system to track the chain of custody of synthetic turf installed on sports and playing fields in the state, from their transportation, installation, and removal to their reuse, recycling and final disposal.

Artificial turf fields are continuing to be implemented in Maryland schools. Each field adds to plastic waste when they need to be replaced every 8-10 years. This plastic, and microplastic waste as the plastic breaks down, adds to environmental concerns for future generations. Tracking the waste will inform caretakers so that they can mitigate and track potential environmental damage. **Therefore, the Free State PTA urges the passage of HB0457.**

Testimony is presented on the behalf of

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