



**TESTIMONY FOR HB00570**  
**Pesticides – Mosquito Control Products and PFAS Chemicals**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Stein

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0694 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

PFAS chemicals are forever chemicals, which means they never break down and stay in our systems and in the ground forever. They are linked to many health issues. High levels of certain **PFAS** are associated with birth defects, developmental delays, high cholesterol, increased risk of kidney and testicular cancers, liver enzyme changes, higher risk of pregnancy pre-eclampsia and high blood pressure, lowered vaccine response in children and higher risk of contracting communicable diseases, including COVID-19.

They should not be used. This bill would preclude the certification of a mosquito repellent by a local government that uses PFAS chemicals. Additionally, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture would require a certificate that the mosquito repellent does not contain PFAS chemicals and has never been stored in a fluorinated high-density polyethylene container.

We feel that this is important legislation designed to save residents, but we would like to see penalties for failure to comply. The penalties should gradually increase for each violation, starting at fines, and eventually going to time in jail.

We support the bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.