

March 2, 2022

Testimony re: HB 570: Pesticides – Mosquito Control Products and PFAS Chemicals
Submitted to: The House Health and Government Affairs Committee
Position: In Support

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and members of this Committee,

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments is the only national organization of nurses whose main focus is on the intersection of health and the environment.

We are very concerned that PFAS has been found in three mosquito control products that Maryland has identified as products it uses for its Dept. of Agriculture's mosquito control program. An unknown number of other such products may also be PFAS-contaminated. Maryland's population and environment must be protected from this serious and unnecessary exposure and we urge the Committee to pass HB570 to ensure that it is.

A growing body of science regarding the adverse impacts of PFAS on human health is undebatable. PFAS are linked to [serious health impacts](#) even at [low levels of exposure](#) (which is why PFAS are measured in parts per trillion). They are [associated](#) with cancer, thyroid disease, birth defects, developmental damage to infants, and impaired functioning of the liver, kidneys, and immune system. Pesticides, which are already being used for mosquito control in Maryland, also can cause similar impacts.

Both synthetic pyrethroids used in our state for mosquito control and PFAS chemicals can act as [endocrine disruptors](#), meaning they can interfere with people's hormone systems – which can result in serious health complications. Children are particularly vulnerable at [even very minute exposures](#). Furthermore, the effects of combining two endocrine disrupting chemicals have yet to be studied.

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments strongly urges you to protect the health of Marylanders with a favorable report for HB 570.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katie Huffling, DNP, RN, CNM, FAAN

Executive Director, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

katie@enviRN.org