

Submitted to: Maryland House Health and Governmental Operations Committee
Testimony on: HB570 Pesticides – Mosquito Control Products and PFAS Chemicals
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 2, 2022

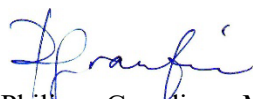
Dear Chairman Pendergrass, Vice Chair Penya-Melnyk, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Philippe Grandjean, I am an MD (with additional degrees, DMSc and dr.h.c.) and serve as an Adjunct Professor of Environmental Health at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and also as Professor of Environmental Medicine at the University of Southern Denmark.

I have for about 15 years conducted federally supported research on PFAS exposures and their adverse effects on human health. In 2012, we published a major discovery, in JAMA, that elevated PFAS exposure during early life results in less efficient response to routine childhood immunizations. Along with subsequent findings, our research was relied upon by the EU agency responsible for risk assessment of PFAS exposures (European Food Safety Authority, EFSA). The Authority published its findings in 2020 and recommended a lowered tolerable limit for PFAS exposures in order to protect the immune system against adverse effects. The new limit is also likely to protect against several other adverse effects that may occur at elevated PFAS exposures.

The EFSA limit is supported by solid science and is currently the most recent – and lowest – exposure limit. Based on blood analyses conducted by the CDC, a large proportion of Americans and likely also Maryland residents exceed EFSA's limit. For this reason, it is of utmost importance that PFAS exposures are controlled and minimized, and that no new sources are added.

I have followed the recent development of mosquito control products, and I am surprised and alarmed by the PFAS content of many of these formulations. Their use will result in environmental PFAS pollution and add to human exposures to these compounds. Given the severe toxicity of the PFASs and the fact that current exposure levels are already problematic, I strongly argue against adding to the existing exposure to these toxicants. I therefore support the HB570 without reservation.



Philippe Grandjean, MD
Professor