

**Written Testimony Submitted for the Record to the Maryland Senate  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
For the Hearing on  
Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements (SB0158)  
February 2, 2023  
SUPPORT**

Free State PTA represents over 50,000 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. ***Senate Bill 0158, Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements, aligns with Free State PTA's principle for legislative action which states that schools must provide a safe environment where all students, teachers and staff can thrive.***

A founding principle of Free State PTA's (FSPTA) mission is to promote the safety and well-being of all children and youth. Senate Bill 0158 is consistent with this principle in that it requires pesticides to be tested for Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), a group of chemicals that do not break down in the environment and may lead to detrimental effects to children and families according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC)<sup>1</sup> and multiple studies<sup>2</sup>. These effects include increased cholesterol levels, decreased vaccine response in children, changes in liver enzymes, Infant birth weights, increased risk of high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women, small decreases in infant birth weights, and increased risk of kidney or testicular cancer.

Pesticides are used in Maryland schools<sup>3</sup> on a regular basis, inside the building and outside on fields and play areas. We know that pesticides are harmful to children<sup>4</sup> and they are exposed to them throughout their lives. Laws pertaining to Integrated Pest Management and policy attempts by the Maryland State Department of Education exist to limit pesticide exposure to children, but eliminating PFAS from pesticides will be even more protective of children's health. **Therefore, the Free State PTA urges the passage of SB0158.** Ellie Mitchell and Rick Tyler, Maryland Education Coalition, and Hannah Donart, MCCPTA Health and Wellness Committee also join this testimony.

Testimony is presented on the behalf of

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atsdr.cdc.gov%2Fpfas%2Fhealth-effects.html](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atsdr.cdc.gov%2Fpfas%2Fhealth-effects.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6380916/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/Integrated-Pest-Management-\(IPM\)-in-Schools.aspx](https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/Integrated-Pest-Management-(IPM)-in-Schools.aspx)

<sup>4</sup><https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/all-around/Pages/Protecting-Children-from-Pesticides-Information-for-Parents.aspx>