



TESTIMONY FOR SB0319 Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stein

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0319 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.

Just in the last couple of weeks, PFAS chemicals were found in the wells of residents in Frederick County. The wells have been closed and the local government seems to be at a loss in terms of how to resolve the situation. This is a completely predictable result given the free reign that companies that make and install chemicals in everyday products have in the state of Maryland.

These 'forever chemicals', which we all know are linked to multiple types of cancer and other health impacts, are in pesticides that are sprayed everywhere. No great surprise that they would make it into our drinking water.

This bill requires all manufacturers of mosquito control products in the state to provide annual independent lab testing and certification to document that the pesticide is PFAS-free, beginning January 1, 2024. As of January 1, 2026, manufacturers of *all* pesticides must provide this same testing to prove the pesticide is PFAS-free.

We don't even know how to remediate PFAS from the water, so we are poisoning our own drinking water without even a backup plan. Clearly the manufacturers and the resellers won't be responsible on their own to remove the chemicals, so we must legislate that responsibility. This cannot happen soon enough.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.