



## **HB319 – Pesticide Registration – PFAS Testing – Requirements**

**Testimony before**

**House Health and Government Operations Committee**

**February 21, 2023**

**Position: Favorable**

Mdm. Chair, Mdm. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB319**, which would set up a timeline for the removal of PFAS from pesticides. We appreciate the leadership of Delegate Stein in sponsoring this important legislation.

It has been found that exposure to PFAS chemicals at high levels can cause thyroid disease, higher cholesterol levels, kidney and testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis, pregnancy-induced hypertension, liver damage, and kidney disease. At lower levels, it has been found to reduce the immune system's response, but research is continuing that could show even low-level exposure could cause much more severe concerns. Due to the fact that we are exposed to PFAS chemicals every day from a variety of sources, it is imperative that we try to remove as many as possible. This would hopefully limit the potentially deadly impacts of exposure. This bill will continue that process by ensuring that PFAS chemicals are removed from all pesticides by January 1, 2026 (sooner for pesticides targeting mosquitos).

For these reasons, we support HB319.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

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