



**Mission:** *To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy*  
**Vision:** *Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities*

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**House Bill 1190: Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals – Prohibition**  
**Before the House Health and Government Operations Committee**  
**Written Testimony Submitted By: Maryland Public Health Association (MdpHA)**  
**Hearing date: March 13, 2024**  
**Position: Support**

Chairperson Pena-Melnyk and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1190.

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdpHA) gladly supports **HB1190 Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals – Prohibition** and we urge you to please support passage of this critically needed bill. This bill would prohibit, beginning June 1, 2025, a person from selling a pesticide that has PFAS chemicals listed as an active ingredient on the labeling accompanying the pesticide; and prohibit, beginning December 31, 2025, a person from using a pesticide that has PFAS chemicals listed as an active ingredient on the labeling.

Maryland registers over 14,000 pesticides annually and over 1,000 contain toxic forever chemicals as their active ingredient. These pesticides are used widely in agriculture, homes, emergency rooms, health care facilities, and schools— among people who are already vulnerable. Also, alarming is that there is no research on the synergistic effects of combining these forever chemicals with toxic pesticides that already have adverse health impacts<sup>1</sup>. PFAS persist in the environment and exposure in people can occur by consuming PFAS-contaminated water or food. Exposure may happen by using products that contain PFAS<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the use of soil, water, or biosolids contaminated with PFAS to grow crops, feed animals intended for food, or raise fish or other seafood, can lead to PFAS entering the food supply<sup>3</sup>. HB1190 will protect the health of our people, crops, water, and land from needless PFAS pollution from pesticides that contain PFAS as their active ingredient.

Fortunately, there is no PFAS testing is required for this bill and the passage of this bill creates a reasonable step to reduce PFAS contamination. As a professional public health organization, we urge your support for HB1190.

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<sup>1</sup> Smart on pesticides coalition(Sopc). (n.d.). Maryland Pesticide Network & Maryland Pesticide Education Network. Retrieved March 11, 2024, from <https://mdpestnet.org/projects/smart-on-pesticides-maryland-2/>

<sup>2</sup> Per- and polyfluorinated substances (Pfas) factsheet | national biomonitoring program | cdc. (2022, May 3). [https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS\\_FactSheet.html](https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS_FactSheet.html)

<sup>3</sup> Nutrition, C. for F. S. and A. (2024). Testing food for pfas and assessing dietary exposure. FDA. <https://www.fda.gov/food/process-contaminants-food/testing-food-pfas-and-assessing-dietary-exposure>

*The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.*

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