



TESTIMONY FOR HB1147
Environment - Playground Surfacing Materials - Prohibitions

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Guyton

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1147 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

We are ingesting plastics and PFAS chemicals and making ourselves sicker and sicker. Regardless of the fact that we did not realize what has been happening and how all of these chemicals have insidiously made their way into our bodies, we owe it to ourselves and our children to try to mitigate future harm.

This bill is focused on children's playing fields. While our children are at play, the materials that are used in playgrounds contain all kinds of horrible chemicals that they are literally putting their faces in. The bill would prohibit PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) and lead from products, materials or substances used or installed on the ground surface of a playground, including shredded tire mulch and bonded rubber surface materials.

This is the least we can do for our children. They should be playing on surfaces that don't make them sick and have lingering health consequences. Our members support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.