

Testimony on: HB1022 – PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements
Committee: Health and Environment and Transportation
Submitting: Rhonda Kranz
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 10, 2026

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my written testimony in support of HB1022, PFAS Chemicals Product Phase Outs and Registration. This is an issue of great importance to all of us. We have known about the dangers of PFAS for decades and yet they continue to be produced and used in almost every part of our life. These “Forever Chemicals” are in our furniture, our clothes, our soil, our streams and oceans, our drinking water, our blood, in the air we breathe, the food we eat; and the list continues. We are limited at this time in how much we can mitigate the damaged already done, but we have been way too slow in the most direct action of removing the chemicals from the products we use and stopping the flow in to our environment and our lives.

HB1022 takes a step forward in reducing the input of PFAS in to our environment by phasing out several types of products, and requiring disclosure and registration with the Maryland Department of the Environment. In addition, the bill will include penalties for non-compliance. Many of the products such as that are almost impossible to avoid are included in the early phases of the program. These include cleaning products, food packaging, toys, furniture, paint, and hygiene products that are almost impossible to avoid

PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time. They are widespread and persistent across the globe. They are known to have serious health impacts on humans and other living organisms. Epidemiological studies have found associations between exposure to PFAS health effects, such as altered immune and thyroid function, liver disease, lipid and insulin dysregulation, kidney disease, adverse reproductive and developmental outcomes, and cancer. Some of which occur at very low levels.

HB1022 will save lives and money. What we do in Maryland goes beyond our borders. It is important that we step up to protect those of us living in Maryland, but we can set an example for other states. For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue a FAVORABLE report for HB1022.