

**Committees:** Health and Environment and Transportation  
**Testimony on:** HB1022 – PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements  
**Submitting:** Deborah A. Cohn  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** March 10, 2026

Dear Chairs Bagnall and Korman and Committee Members:

I have resided in Maryland for over forty years and my son and his family, including two pre-kindergarten children, also live in Maryland. I am concerned about the health and reproductive impacts of PFAS in all of us and thus support HB1022, PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements.

PFAS, known as “forever chemicals” include roughly 15,000 man-made compounds which, due to their strong fluorine-carbon bond, do not break down naturally. They contaminate the soil, can enter our homes through soil and dust, can leach into groundwater and contaminate our food supply. They are ubiquitous and accumulate in the body. They are linked to significant health risks, including elevated cholesterol, immune system suppression, thyroid disease, liver damage, kidney and testicular cancers, and pregnancy-induced hypertension. They can cause developmental issues in children and reduced fertility.

The limited options to eliminate them from our environment are all very expensive. So a total ban is not yet practicable. Reducing our exposure to PFAS by phasing out PFAS from the products we use is currently our best approach to reduce exposure and the resulting health issues.

HB1022 takes this approach. It phases out PFAS use in multiple product areas along the following schedule:

- Jan. 2028: cleaning products, cookware, cosmetics, personal care products, dental floss, feminine hygiene products, pet food packaging, juvenile products and intimacy products.
- Jan 2029: fabric treatments, ski wax, textiles, textile furnishings, upholstered furniture and paint.

It also requires disclosure and registration with the Maryland Department of the Environment and penalties for non-compliance.

PFAS chemicals will be with us forever. Our best approach is to reduce our exposure. For these reasons I urge both committees to issue a FAVORABLE report for HB1022.