

## **Testimony in support of H. B. 5216: Pesticide Control**

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: February 12, 2025

To Chair McNamara and the honorable Members of the House Education Committee:

I support H5216 because it will reduce pesticide, herbicide and rodenticide use and restrict their accessibility in schools, pre-schools and child-care centers and investigate health risks from poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in artificial athletic fields by

- prohibiting use of Glyphosate,
- requiring local school authorities to annually provide an integrated pest management plan,
- requiring the department of health to provide schools with an explanation and the requirements of the pesticide application and notification law,
- regulating storage of pesticides,
- and establishing a task force to specifically address the presence of, and potential health risks associated with the presence of PFAS in artificial athletic fields.

The latter is of particular current relevance, because of the growing evidence of longterm and broad toxicity of even low levels of PFAS, especially for toddlers, children and teenagers, and the still insufficient public awareness about these dangers. The Barrington School Committee and the community of Burrillville, who are currently installing artificial turf despite PFAS risks and the tightening of Rhode Island laws, and the residents in both communities, will benefit from the well researched official position that the task force will provide.

Please bring the bill to a vote in the House in 2025, to protect our children from toxic substances in their schools' environment. The measures in the bill are common sense. Implementing them is relatively straightforward, and not too much to ask for to prevent accidents from happening and to ultimately protect health and lives of those whom we love the most.

Unfortunately the bill did not come to a vote in 2024, and passing it into law in this year, 2025, is the responsible action to take. Please do not risk harming a child by waiting another year!

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Carson for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

February 10, 2025

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