

February 11, 2025

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

Date of Hearing: February 12, 2025

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

I'm writing in support of H.B. 5216 and the commonsense regulation of pesticide, rodenticide, and herbicide applications on the grounds of Rhode Island schools and day care centers.

Research indicates that exposure to even low levels of chemicals during early developmental stages may lead to long-term health effects such as lower IQ scores, neurodevelopmental delays, and a higher risk of chronic diseases.

The evidence is equally dire regarding PFAs, and the acres of artificial turf fields across the state are a staggering potential vector. Over time and through exposure to light and water, the components of artificial turf break down, leaching PFAs and microplastics into the soil, air, and groundwater. Inhalation and ingestion are the primary sources of PFAs exposure in children.

As the artificial turf industry is entirely unregulated, the formation of a task force to address the presence of, and potential health risks associated with, PFAS in artificial turf athletic fields is crucial to ensuring the health and safety of our children.

Thank you for your consideration, and to Representative Carson for introducing this important bill.



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**Further reading:** Manufactured Chemicals and Children's Health — The Need for New Law. The Consortium for Children's Environmental Health. *The New England Journal of Medicine* (2025). DOI: 10.1056/NEJMms2409092, <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMms2409092>