

Testimony in support of H7343: Pesticide Control

George Voutes, 17 Shore Road, Bristol RI, 02809

Date of Hearing: February 10, 2026

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

I support H7343 to reduce pesticide, herbicide and rodenticide use and restrict them schools and, child-care centers while investigating health risks from poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in artificial athletic fields.

Specifically this bill will help in 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.

Pesticides, herbicides and rodenticides are wreaking deadly havoc on pets, wildlife and the nature ecosystems (whether used on public or private lands and near water). Reducing their use in general is vitally important. This should be considered in the very near future.

Please bring the bill to a vote in the House in 2026 to protect our children from toxic substances in their schools' environment. The measures in plain common sense.

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

*George Voutes*

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