

February 24, 2025

Testimony in support of H.B. 5340: Artificial Turf – Chain of Custody

Date of Hearing: February 27, 2025

To Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I'm writing in support of H.B. 5340 and the creation of a statewide database to track the purchase, use, disposal, and replacement of artificial turf fields.

Plastic is an urgent threat to human health and the environment. Artificial turf fields are plastic. 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.¹

Children play on these fields every day. Yet even low-level exposure to microplastics at early developmental stages may lead to long-term health effects such as neurodevelopmental delays, asthma, and a higher risk of chronic diseases.² Inhalation and ingestion are the primary sources of PFAs and microplastics exposure in children.

Additionally, artificial turf fields need replacing every 8-10 years, after which, thousands of pounds of chemical-leaching plastic are destined for the Central Landfill.

As the artificial turf industry is entirely unregulated, a database to facilitate the development of safer artificial turf management and disposal strategies, as well as the monitoring of potential health risks, is crucial to ensuring the welfare of our children and our state.

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

Jessica Allen

37 Lincoln Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

¹ Silgails, Mara, and Goldsmith, Amy "The Turf is Artificial, But the Harm is Very Real" *Clean Water Action* (2024)
<https://cleanwater.org/2024/09/16/turf-artificial-harm-very-real>

² Sripada, Kam et al. "A Children's Health Perspective on Nano- and Microplastics." *Environmental health perspectives* vol. 130,1 (2022): 15001. doi:10.1289/EHP9086
<https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP9086>

