

Lou Mansolillo

From: Allison Dean <msaldean@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:10 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. Boylan, Jennifer
Subject: Testimony in support of H5492

Hello, I am writing in strong support of H5492: Microplastics Reduction Act. My name is Allison Lifton and I reside at 3 Robbins Drive, Barrington RI 02806.

This bill is a critical step toward reducing human exposure to microplastics, which mounting evidence shows is harmful to human health. Microplastics have been linked with many health conditions including cancers and dementia. A recent article in The New Republic discusses the building evidence that microplastics, which accumulate in human bodies and brains, are an emerging and worsening public health crisis on the same scale as the climate crisis:

https://newrepublic.com/article/192730/rfk-jr-microplastics-crop-loss-antibiotics-brains?fbclid=IwY2xjawJFJAFlHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHWNmU-WDKklhdJF16ThMRQGHfj0ZXpNGGLuuYKji1K5FRBQiBG6SRoRRag_aem_8FRFTaUuQP5-IWv6tcFbWQ

As the Trump administration falters on public health (despite health secretary Robert F. Kennedy's previous sounding of the alarm on microplastics, a stance he now appears to be abandoning under pressure), states must fill the leadership vacuum. I am especially concerned about the effects of microplastics on young children and in younger people, in whom serious cancers are rising. My town of Barrington has been fighting against shortsighted efforts to install artificial turf, which will only worsen the microplastics exposure for children, and possibly at a catastrophic cost to their health. At best, Barrington is proposing to use school-age children as guinea pigs in the name of athletics, which is deeply disturbing for many reasons. What we need now is for the state to step in and provide regulation and leadership on this issue. We may not know everything there is to know about the health effects of microplastics, but we know enough to know that it's high time to regulate in ways that reduce exposure and encourage people to make choices that do not worsen the problem.

I wholeheartedly support this bill, and urge you to pass it swiftly.

Best regards,
Allison Lifton
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