

April 29, 2026

Testimony in support of S2439: Pesticide Control

To Chair Sosnowski and the honorable Members of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee:

I'm writing **in support of S2439** and the commonsense regulation of pesticide, rodenticide, and herbicide applications on the grounds of Rhode Island schools and day care centers.

Exposure to even low levels of chemicals during early developmental stages can 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,



Jessica Allen

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,