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American Academy of Pediatrics



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Maryland Chapter

TO: The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair  
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
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Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: February 13, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 500 – *Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 500.

Senate Bill 500 prohibits the use of chlorpyrifos in the State. Chlorpyrifos is a chemical pesticide which can cause both acute poisoning from a single exposure as well as cumulative toxicity from chronic exposure. Because of health concerns associated with household use of chlorpyrifos, its sale for residential use was prohibited by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a ban which became effective December 31, 2001. An extensive review of the evidence of toxicity from agricultural use, particularly in children and in infants born to exposed mothers, led the EPA to recommend a total ban on the use of chlorpyrifos to become effective in April 2016. A further analysis and report by the EPA in November 2016, showed risks from dietary exposures (residues on food crops) and drinking water, which supported the EPA's original proposal. Unfortunately, this proposal to revoke all tolerances for chlorpyrifos, based on the EPA's own analysis and review of available studies, was overturned by its Administrator in 2017.

Attached please find testimony by Dr. Michael Ichniowski which details information about the pesticide and summarizes various studies that document its toxicity. As noted in Dr. Ichniowski's testimony, the neurotoxicity resulting from exposure to chlorpyrifos and resulting adverse effects has in fact been well-documented. As stated previously, the growing body of evidence of chlorpyrifos toxicity led the EPA to propose revoking all tolerances for this pesticide in 2015 and again in 2016. The EPA Administrator's recent decision not to finalize this revocation puts children, specifically, and the public, generally, at unnecessary risk. Through Senate Bill 500, Maryland has the opportunity to protect its young citizens by banning the use of chlorpyrifos in the State. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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