BAN CHLORPYRIFOS in MARYLAND
SB 500/HB 116

Chlorpyrifos (chlor·pyr·i·fos) is a toxic, nerve agent pesticide proven to cause brain damage in children and known to harm the environment and wildlife. It is found in air and water—and people’s bodies. People come in contact with the chemical through residues on food, drinking water contamination and toxic drift from pesticide application.

In 2015, after extensive study, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency scientists recommended that the pesticide be banned for all uses, due to the high risk of children’s exposure in utero or during critical periods of growth and to the link between chlorpyrifos exposure and autism, ADHD and other neurodevelopmental issues. Prenatal exposures to this chemical are associated with reduced IQ, loss of working memory, attention deficit disorders and delayed motor development. Whenever chlorpyrifos is sprayed, it can cause immediate and long-term health harms to kids, farmers, farmworkers and others who are exposed.

Despite this, Scott Pruitt—the head of the EPA appointed by President Trump—overrode the recommendations of EPA scientists and reversed the decision to ban chlorpyrifos. This new direction turns a blind eye to science, and when it comes to dangerous products like chlorpyrifos, it puts us all at risk.

There are plenty of far safer pesticide alternatives, and the use of chlorpyrifos among Maryland farmers already minimal, according to the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

THE DANGERS OF CHLORPYRIFOS EXPOSURE FOR BABIES, CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN1

- Preterm birth
- Low birth weight
- Congenital abnormalities
- Asthma
- Pediatric cancers
- Neurobehavioral and cognitive deficits
- Permanent neurological damage

1 https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/01/opinion/pesticide-epa.html?_r=1
Marylanders of all political stripes overwhelmingly support banning chlorpyrifos in our state.

74% of Maryland voters favor banning chlorpyrifos.

Democrats: 81%
Republicans: 68%
Independents: 65%

Source: Opinionworks survey of 850 Md. registered voters, October 25-November 7, 2017, with a potential margin of error of ±3.3%

SB 500/HB 116 would prohibit the use of chlorpyrifos—and other insecticides containing chlorpyrifos—in the state beginning on January 1, 2019. Farmers would not be prohibited from using other pesticides and insecticides.

We must protect our state. Ban the use of chlorpyrifos in Maryland!

Sign up for our action alerts here: https://tinyurl.com/MPNsign.

The Smart on Pesticides Maryland coalition, spearheaded by the Maryland Pesticide Education Network, works to protect Marylanders and the natural systems we depend upon from the toxic impacts of pesticides. The coalition includes 80 organizations, and institutions representing communities, businesses, health care providers, farmers, environmentalists, waterkeepers, interfaith congregants as well as environmental justice, public health and wildlife advocates.

www.smartonpesticides.org