

Hello,

As the head baseball coach at Nathan Hale-Ray High School the past 15 years, I encourage you to vote **NO** for the Act Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds. In fact, myself and many others, would like to see the initial act repealed. Fields and grounds around the State are suffering.

Currently our middle school fields (soccer, baseball, softball and the grounds in general) are in a shambles. Grubs, moles/voles, ants and other pests have kept the soil from the proper nutrients to grow strong healthy grass. The fact is the only thing that sustains growth are weeds. Organic fertilizers and pest controls have not worked and are in most cases two or three times the cost. What grass we have is not strong enough to sustain the rigors of a sports season. It becomes a safety hazard for players. Balls take odd and inconsistent hops, the terrain doesn't have consistent traction for players to run, move laterally, and alter their paths during the flow of practice and games, and it doesn't have the proper cushion for when players fall or make an aggressive attempt.

We are quite proud of the layout and design of the field complex of Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, but the fields themselves have a long way to go to come close to match the beautiful surroundings.

Our high school fields are heavily used, not only by the school's sports teams but the community at large. Currently regular maintenance of the field and grounds allows for the growth of thick green grass that is aesthetically pleasing and playable. The scheduled regular pest and weed control maintenance is entirely necessary to sustain operable fields for the long run. By the end of sports seasons fields still get worn, but are able to recover and rejuvenate for the next season. My fear, and I believe it is easily justified by how many middle and elementary school fields across the State have been ruined, is that over time the high school fields and grounds will go down the same path and become a safety hazard for student athletes and an eye sore.

Again I encourage you to vote **NO**.

Sincerely,

Rich Gable
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Head Baseball Coach
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