

Written Testimony in favor of HB #6897
Kate Miller
3/4/15

Written Only Testimony (will not be presented)

RE: H.B. No. 6897 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT STATE-OPERATED PARKS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

Dear Children's Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you to vote in favor of HB #6897.

As a parent I am asking that the state protect our kids using sports fields and playgrounds against exposure to chemicals that can affect their health and well-being. There are so many risks we can't easily control. Direct contact with lawn care chemicals (either on the field or volatilizing in the air) that are predominantly applied for aesthetic reasons (vs. food production or disease control) isn't a risk they should be exposed to.

As a biologist I am asking that the state act on what we know about exposure to pesticides and the many effective alternatives readily available. Given the data on the biological effects of pesticides, and their likely interactive effects with other chemicals found in our environment, it seems to me unethical to expose children who have little choice in where they go – especially when the effects on them are magnified when compared to those on adults.

There are sound reasons for limiting pesticide use, and the current policy regarding K-8 school properties should be expanded.

Thank you for listening, and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Miller".

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