Responding to industry pressure, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proceeding with a significantly narrowed definition of what constitutes a PFAS chemical—effectively allowing for continued use of PFAS in pesticides and our medicines and continuing to expose us to dangerous PFAS. This new definition overturns the one created by an international panel that included EPA scientists, effectively excluding half of the toxic chemicals currently classified as PFAS by the rest of the world, and thereby exempting them from federal PFAS controls.

What are PFAS?

Due to their molecular structure, PFAS—also known as “forever chemicals”—do not break down in the environment nor in our bodies. There is also no known way to destroy or safely dispose of PFAS. As a result, these toxic products have already made their way into our water systems, our food, and eventually, our bodies.

EVEN LOW EXPOSURE TO PFAS IS LINKED TO A MULTITUDE OF LONG-TERM SERIOUS HEALTH IMPACTS, INCLUDING:

- Testicular and kidney cancer
- More serious COVID-19 infection outcomes
- Pre-eclampsia in pregnant women
- Impaired functioning of the liver, kidneys, and immune system
- Developmental damage to infants
- Thyroid disease
- Less effective responses to vaccines
- Birth defects
- Less effective responses to vaccines
Why do we need this legislation?

Unfortunately, action to protect public health at the EPA has been captured by the chemical industry under both Democratic and Republican administrations. As a result, the EPA has let more than 12,000 PFAS on the market with little oversight, despite a growing body of data on the hazards. Also alarming, to date, there is no research on the synergistic effects of combining these “forever chemicals” with pesticides that are already known to have acute and long-term adverse health impacts. Further narrowing the definition of PFAS would compound this problem by leaving half the toxic PFAS chemicals outside federal control.

What will the bill DO?

The PFAS Definition Improvement Act (HR5987) would ensure we are maintaining the current definition of PFAS so that all 12,000 PFAS-containing products on the market can be effectively researched, reported, and regulated.

Who will the bill HELP?

All Marylanders’ health, adults—especially pregnant women—and children, as well as the environment!

We need to take a critical step to ensure effective oversight of dangerous PFAS-containing chemicals.

Please support HR5987, the PFAS Definition Improvement Act. We need stronger PFAS protections for our bodies, drinking water and environment — not weaker ones.

» TAKE ACTION TODAY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL
raindrop@mdpestnet.org.