

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Stephanie Durrant, and I live in Cumberland, Maine. I am here to testify in support of LD 1177, "Resolve, Establishing a 3-year Moratorium on the Installation or Reinstallation of Synthetic Turf and Requiring a Study of the Public Health and Environmental Risks of Synthetic Turf".

I am originally from Seattle, and moved to Maine four years ago for my husband's job at Maine Med. I immediately fell in love with Maine's appreciation for living in harmony with natural spaces, a stark contrast from the overdeveloped metro I grew up in. The humidity, not so much- but I digress. I know Mainers realize how unique this place is; the connection with the land and water is really special. I am testifying in support of this bill today, because before we blanket the state with plastic fields, I'm asking the committee to pause installations long enough to study the impact of synthetic turf on the environment we value, and the public health we must protect.

I have worn a lot of hats in my life that lead to my hesitation around synthetic turf, but the one I'm here to highlight today is being a mom. As a scientist, I could give you a litany of reasons why we should stem the tide of plastic turf fields- the documented environmental harms and health concerns are numerous. But MY top three reasons are my three children.

It's the best *and* the worst to be a kid. On the one hand, it can be a carefree time full of imagination, dirt and neighborhood games of capture the flag; on the other hand, so many things are out of your control. Decisions are made for you, around you, above you - and all of them impact YOU. As a kid you put a lot of trust in the adults who make these choices, mostly because you have to.

...You have to trust Decision Makers will remember that your small frame is *more impacted by heavy metals and toxins* of all kinds than full grown bodies are, and will work to keep your environment free from these harms.

... You have to trust that they remember there are *critical windows of development* for children when endocrine disruptors at any level - found in plastics, plastic grass included- can impact your development and future health.

.... You have to trust that Decision Makers remember when microplastics enter the environment, *they also enter and accumulate in our bodies*; we are not separate from our environments.

... You have to trust they remember *your small body can't regulate heat as well*, and plastic fields *reach unsafe temperatures* quickly- and that *injuries* from these unnatural surfaces are motivating professional athletes to move back to grass fields themselves.

Our kids face an onslaught of health harms every day, from their built spaces to the unregulated chemicals in their shampoo. As a parent, I can only do so much to protect them on my own. I'm asking the committee to pause new installation and reinstallation of synthetic turf to ensure we

are not adding to the toxic load of our environment and families. *Progress does not need to equal plastic.* Please carefully consider the options before momentum brings us to a place much harder to reverse than prevent. I admire Maine's ability to be authentic, and true to itself. I'm asking the committee to pause the parade of plastic grass to ensure we do not unintentionally harm what we value- the health of our families and Maine's natural and wild spaces. As a mom, I know our kids not only deserve it, they are depending on it. Thank you.

Stephanie Durrant
Cumberland
LD 1177

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