

Rosemarie De Angelis  
South Portland School Board  
LD 1177

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Rosemarie De Angelis, and I serve on the South Portland School Board. We have debated the issue of natural grass versus artificial turf for months. I have been a proponent of natural grass and have argued that the evidence is clear: artificial turf is dangerous for our children and should be banned.

The topic has split our board; it has split our community. We need the legislature to weigh in and protect our children and our environment. Artificial turf is not sustainable and wreaks havoc on our waterways and wild life. I was able to change the referendum to ask the voters to choose: artificial turf or natural grass. However, this is not enough. Proponents of turf argue more playing time and that wins votes. That cannot be our criteria. We must do better. We must protect the environment and more importantly, protect lives. I urge passage of this bill and encourage you to move ahead.

Thank you