

Maine Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MAINE

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Executive Committee

President

Brian Youth, MD, FAAP

Vice President

Anne Coates, MD, FAAP

Treasurer

Jeffrey Stone, DO, FAAP

Secretary

Genevieve Whiting, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP

Board of Directors

Joseph Anderson, DO, FAAP

Rebecca Brakeley, MD, FAAP

Amy Buczkowski, MD, FAAP

Melissa Burch, MD, FAAP

Adrienne Carmack, MD, FAAP

Gabriel Civiello, MD, FAAP

Alyssa Goodwin, MD, FAAP

Allison Grover, MD*

Deborah Q. Hagler, MD, MPH, FAAP

Dan Hale, MD, FAAP

Jennifer Jewell, MD, MS, FAAP

Stephanie Joy, MD, FAAP

Emily Keller, MD, FAAP

Alton Kremer, MD, PhD, FAAP

Michele LaBotz, MD, FAAP

Lawrence Losey, MD, FAAP

Sophia Martens**

Christopher Motyl, DO, FAAP

Valerie O'Hara, DO, FAAP

Calvin Schaffer, MD*

Andrea Tracy, MD, FAAP

Lara Walsh, MD, FAAP

Afnan Yahya**

Margaret Zamboni, DO, FAAP

*Resident Board Representatives

**Medical Student Representatives

Staff

Dee Kerry, BS

Executive Director

Emily Belanger, RN, BSN

Education & Membership Manager

Madeleine DesFosses, BA

Public Health & Advocacy Manager

Tiffany Harrington, MBA

Development Director

30 Association Drive, Box 190

Manchester, ME 04351

office: 207-622-3374

www.maineaap.org

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.

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

April 14th, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Dr. Erin Flynn, I am a practicing pediatrician and a member of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Maine AAP). I also serve as co-chair of the Maine AAP's Environmental Health and Climate Change Committee. I am writing in favor of LD 1177.

Synthetic turf contains many chemicals known to harm human health, including substances that cause cancer, reproductive harm, damage to the brain and nervous system, irritation to lungs, and harm to the body's endocrine and immune systems. These chemicals include per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), phthalates, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals including lead, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), among others.

Kids who play on turf sports fields and playgrounds can be exposed to these dangerous chemicals via direct contact with skin, inhalation, and ingestion, all during critical points in child development.

Runoff from artificial turf spreads these chemicals into the environment, to the soil that grows our food and the water we drink.

Artificial turf also increases risk of heat illness and burns: artificial turf can be up to 60 degrees hotter (F) than natural grass, and the air at head level above artificial turf is hotter than the air at the same level above natural grass.

More research is needed on the public health effects of artificial turf and its component chemicals, both via direct contact and via runoff into the surrounding soil and water systems.

We know that artificial turf contains dangerous chemicals that are harmful to kids' health. It is time to stop using it to build their fields and playgrounds. I urge the committee to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1177.

Erin Flynn, MD

Co-Chair, Environmental Health and Climate Change Committee

Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Maine Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MAINE

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Sources:

Murphy M, Warner GR. Health impacts of artificial turf: Toxicity studies, challenges, and

future directions. *Environ Pollut*. 2022 Oct 1;310:119841. doi:

10.1016/j.envpol.2022.119841. Epub 2022 Aug 7. PMID: 35948114; PMCID: PMC10262297.

Artificial Turf Health Risks. Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Institute for Exposomic Research. 2024 Jul 3. <https://mountsinaieposomics.org/artificial-turf/>