



March 1, 2021

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, and members of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and forestry,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to LD 125 An Act To Prohibit the Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate and Other Synthetic Herbicides for the Purpose of Silviculture.

Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter (PSR Maine) has over 3,000 health care professionals and advocates statewide. We work on a variety of issues, including pesticides, that impact the health of Maine families and children.

As health professionals and advocates, we support LD 125 and urge the Committee to vote ought to pass.

Just a year ago this month, we released a report – *"Pesticides in Maine: A growing public health concern"*. The report highlights the findings of polling completed last winter by Critical Insights on Maine.

Maine adults and voters were asked a series of questions related to pesticides. When asked how concerned they are about the potential for negative impacts on their health, their children's health, or pet's health from exposure to chemical pesticides, 72% of respondents were concerned with 44% stating they were very concerned. Only 7% had no concerns. 2% were unsure.

As health professionals and advocates, we are also concerned about the potential health implications of the use and over use of pesticides like glyphosate.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer, part of the World Health Organization, found that glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans." A 2019 study found a link between glyphosate and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. A pilot study in 2016 found that glyphosate based herbicide exposure induced endocrine effects and altered reproductive developmental male and female rats.

As with many other pesticides, more studies are needed. Dr Philip Landrigan, world renowned pediatrician and epidemiologist who first discovered the health impacts of lead on children, said that one of his biggest worries is pesticides because of the exposure to children. He acknowledges in his 2018 report, *The need for independent research on the health effects of glyphosate-based Herbicides*, that more studies are urgently needed.

We should not be gambling with our children's health. Eliminating exposure is the best way to protect health. We urge you to support LD 125.

Thank you.

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