



To: The Honorable Senator Dill, Chair  
The Honorable Representative O'Neil, Chair  
Members, Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

From: Matthew Fortin, Legal Extern with Maine Medical Association and 2L at  
the University of Maine School of Law

Date: March 2, 2021

Re: **In Support**  
LD 316 – An Act to Prohibit the Use of Chlorpyrifos

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The Maine Medical Association is the state's largest professional physician organization representing more than 4,300 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine and promote the health of all Maine residents.

The Maine Medical Association **supports** [LD 316](#), which prohibits the use of pesticides containing chlorpyrifos as an active ingredient starting in 2022. The bill also requires that temporary permits which are issued in 2022 to be publicly accessible on the Board of Pesticides Control's website. As stated, part of MMA's mission is to promote the health of all Maine residents.

Chlorpyrifos, used as a pesticide since 1965, is applied to a variety of crops to control insects. Columbia University [found](#) links between prenatal chlorpyrifos exposure and deficits in children's working memory and IQ. Recent [studies](#) show exposure to chlorpyrifos causing anxiety-like behavior. California, New York, Hawaii and other states have either banned the pesticide or are moving to phase out its use. A year ago, the largest manufacturer of chlorpyrifos in the United States, Corteva, [announced](#) that it will



stop selling the chemical. Most recently, President Biden's administration plans to [reexamine](#) a proposed ban on chlorpyrifos.

While the MMA appreciates the impact that Maine farms have on the health of its residents by growing the best broccoli, apples and other produce, it is certainly concerned with the neurological well-being of its youngest and most vulnerable citizens. This bill would ensure that pregnant mothers, babies and young children will not be exposed to this harmful pesticide through chlorpyrifos application in Maine. Maine Medical Association supports this bill, as prohibiting chlorpyrifos promotes the health and safety of Maine residents.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of LD 316. We urge the Committee to vote **Ought to Pass**.