

March 19, 2021

House Agriculture Committee Members:

On behalf of PAN and our 1218 members in Minnesota, I am writing to encourage your active support of HF 670, the bill to prohibit use of the insecticide chlorpyrifos in the state. This chemical was withdrawn from indoor uses 20 years ago due to concerns about potential impacts on children's developing brains. Since then, the scientific evidence of the neurodevelopmental harms of chlorpyrifos have continued to mount, with many studies linking low-level, prenatal exposure to reductions in IQ and learning disabilities.

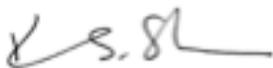
Health professionals across the country were outraged when in 2017, the leadership of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chose to overlook the recommendations of its own scientists and reverse course on a planned ban of this chemical. Without federal action, many states took action to restrict the insecticide. Hawaii, California, and New York have all banned or withdrawn almost all uses of the chemical, in addition to a ban in the EU.

According to USGS data, Minnesota has some of the [highest chlorpyrifos use in the country](#), with levels of exposure particularly high in the southern half of the state. Minnesotans, particularly rural children, are disproportionately impacted by chlorpyrifos exposure and at risk of both acute and chronic health effects.

Minnesotan commodity crop farmers, who currently use chlorpyrifos for managing soybean aphid, may benefit from a longer phase-out than other states with lower usage. With pressure by states and health professionals on the Biden administration to reinstate the planned ban of the chemical, we could see federal action on this action soon. By passing HF 670 in Minnesota, farmers can work to identify alternatives and begin phasing out this harmful chemical with state-specific needs in mind.

We hope that MN legislators will vote to protect children's health and take action on this issue.

Sincerely,



Kristin S. Schafer, Executive Director