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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Since the late 1990s, the installation and use of indoor and outdoor artificial turf fields with crumb rubber infill has grown exponentially across the United States and particularly in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The costs to install artificial turf fields with crumb rubber range from \$500,000 to well over one million dollars with a useful life of six to 12 years depending on usage and maintenance; maintenance costs which include disinfecting are around \$100,000 annually; and

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WHEREAS, The installation of artificial turf fields with crumb rubber infill is largely paid for by taxpayer dollars; a typical artificial turf field uses between 20,000 to 40,000 ground up car and truck tires for its crumb rubber infill; the crumb rubber industry came out of an effort to figure out how to dispose of millions of used tires that were considered too toxic to dump into landfills; and

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WHEREAS, On October 8, 2014, NBC News aired a national report, "How Safe is the Artificial Turf Your Child Plays On?" that brought the issue of crumb rubber into the national consciousness; Amy Griffin, the former United States women's national team goalkeeper coach at the University of Washington,

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1 compiled a list that now contains the names of over 230
2 athletes, most of whom are soccer players, particularly
3 goalies, that have been stricken with cancer due to repeated
4 contact with crumb rubber; since that NBC report, there have
5 been many other reports across the United States and Europe
6 about the safety of crumb rubber, particularly for young
7 children; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, children as young as 18-months are playing
9 sports, particularly soccer, on crumb rubber artificial turf
10 fields; more and more children are playing sports on these
11 fields with the presumption that the fields are safe; children
12 can be exposed to highly toxic crumb rubber substances through
13 inhalation, skin absorption, and accidental ingestion; and

14 WHEREAS, The scientific name for crumb rubber is
15 styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), and according to OSHA, chronic
16 exposure to both styrene and butadiene can harm the central
17 nervous system of children; the EPA has classified butadiene as
18 a known human carcinogen; and

19 WHEREAS, In June of 2015, Environment and Human Health,
20 Inc., an organization of physicians and public health
21 professionals, conducted a study of 14 samples of crumb rubber
22 at Yale University and found that 96 chemicals were found in
23 crumb rubber infill; of the 96 chemicals that were found, 20%

1 were carcinogenic, about 50% had not been tested for toxicity,
2 and many had incomplete toxicity testing completed; another 40%
3 were found to be skin and eye irritants and also causes of
4 breathing problems; and

5 WHEREAS, New York and Connecticut-based studies found that
6 crumb rubber infill "off-gassed" toxic chemicals; and

7 WHEREAS, Tire rubber is composed of 30% to 40% of "carbon
8 black" which is suspected to being a cancer causing agent; no
9 studies regarding long-term exposure to carbon black on indoor
10 or outdoor fields have been conducted; tires may also contain
11 "carbon nanotubes" which some scientists believe may act
12 similar to asbestos when inhaled into the lungs and cause
13 cancer; and

14 WHEREAS, The crumb rubber industry and recycling
15 industries tout crumb rubber as 100% safe, often referring to
16 studies that have already been completed and statements made by
17 the EPA and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in 2008;
18 however, in 2013 CPSC Chairman Elliot Kay said his 2008 CPSC
19 statement "does not reflect my view on the state of play. Safe
20 to play on means something to parents that I don't think we
21 intended to convey"; and

22 WHEREAS, On January 28, 2016, due to the lack of reliable

1 studies on the safety of crumb rubber, the CDC, EPA, and CPSC
2 initiated a multi-agency plan to study the long-term effects of
3 crumb rubber exposure on human health; and

4 WHEREAS, The use of crumb rubber is unregulated and lacks
5 safety oversight by any governmental agency; furthermore,
6 crumb rubber was excluded from classifications as a "children's
7 product" and thus exempt from laws on chemicals "of high
8 concern for children" found in children's products; and

9 WHEREAS, When applying crumb rubber to turf fields, workers
10 are advised to wear respirators in order to protect them from
11 inhaling crumb rubber dust; and

12 WHEREAS, There are no requirements to inform field users
13 about the chemical content, associated risk, or precautionary
14 guidelines regarding crumb rubber dust; parents are often told
15 by the turf field owner that these fields are safe based on
16 unreliable static air quality testing; and

17 WHEREAS, Citing the safety of its students, the Los Angeles
18 Unified School District, the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation
19 Department, the New York City Department of Parks and
20 Recreation, the Chicago Public Schools, as well as other
21 communities across the country have moved away from using crumb
22 rubber infill in favor of a non-petroleum based alternative

1 infill for their turf fields like sand or cork; therefore, be
2 it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the State of Illinois
5 is urged to monitor and, where feasible, actively participate
6 in all crumb rubber federal testing; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois is urged to create a
8 watchlist of fields and playgrounds for indoors and outdoors
9 that contain crumb rubber and publish them on the Illinois EPA
10 website until the 2016 multi-agency federal testing concludes
11 that crumb rubber is definitively safe for use as infill for
12 artificial turf fields; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That any indoor or outdoor facility using
14 artificial turf with crumb rubber infill used by children
15 between the ages of 18-months to 12 years is urged to provide
16 proper notification to parents regarding the 2016 multi-agency
17 study of crum rubber and the possible chemical exposure to
18 their children due to playing on crumb rubber infill.