

**Committee: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs**

**Legislation: SB 0135 Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ)**

**Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing: 2/15/2022**

Dear Members of the Committee,

Regarding education and health, we are [learning](#) about the effects of pollution from [studies](#) in schools about emissions, poor air quality and lead poisoning on children's educational outcomes. Exposure to pollutants in schools has significant, negative impacts on test scores, suspensions, and/or absence from school. The CCEJ can give back to communities that have been harmed the most through the Climate Crisis Benefit Fund and the Infrastructure Fund, including those communities' schools.

[Research](#) on the effects of children's learning ability shows us that maintaining lower air pollution levels by 20% could improve the development of a child's working memory by 6.1%, the equivalent of four weeks extra learning time per year. Air pollution from burning fossil fuels is causing or worsening heart disease, asthma, lung disease, and cancer. The particulates in air pollution can also threaten pregnant women and the health of their babies. This [study](#) shows that reducing GHGs improves air quality and prevents premature deaths.

The CCEJ provides funds for low and moderate income families as well as local governments to create and implement climate action plans to reduce GHG emissions.

For these reasons and more, the Environmental Justice Ministry urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0135.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanci Wilkinson

Environmental Justice Ministry

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church