

MARYLAND STUDENT COALITION

JON DIPIETRO, DIRECTOR
HUNTER CRAIG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

CHRIS LIDARD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
VINAY KHOSLA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 383 - Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant - Funding and Evaluation - Extension

SPONSOR: Senator King, *Montgomery County (39)*

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

Monday, February 7, 2022

SB383: Favorable

The Maryland Student Coalition is an entirely student-led, advocacy group that serves to bring students together to promote education policy reform. Founded in 2020 as a vehicle for advocating for students' right to demonstrate, our scope has since expanded to include more educational advocacy initiatives. You can learn more at marylandstudents.org

Chair Pinsky, and honorable members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. We are writing in favor of Senate Bill 383.

Senate Bill (SB) 383 - Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant - Funding and Evaluation, will extend allocations of the States annual budget towards funding for green schools. The purpose of this fund specifically seeks to increase the number of green schools in the state of Maryland.

“Green schools” are defined as public and independent education institutions that provide an environmental curriculum. Currently, over 660 schools in the state fit this criteria, which accounts for approximately 33% of all schools in Maryland. The funding allows educators to develop their students’ environmental efficacy, which ultimately improves our goals of achieving a clean and healthy future. Extending the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant will allow schools to continue to serve this important education to the next generation of students.

The Maryland Student Coalition supports the principles within the legislation and strongly encourages issuing a **favorable** report on SB 383.