

SB 882_CBF_SUPPORT_TomAckerman.pdf

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CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

SB 882

Operating Budget – Education Programs – Mandated Spending

Date: March 3, 2021

Position: Support

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Tom Ackerman, Vice President Education

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation **SUPPORTS** SB 882, which would restore funding to the State Aided Educational Institutions Program in the FY23 budget. For the second year in a row, the Governor's budget proposal zeroed out educational funding that had long been provided to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to support environmental education programs throughout the State. The State aid allows CBF to leverage additional financial resources and supports Maryland students and teachers in meeting Maryland's environmental literacy requirement.

MSDE's Budget Request for FY 2022 funding for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's educational programs was struck in the Governor's budget proposal

For 40 years, Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) award winning outdoor education programs has maintained a contract with MSDE through the State Aided Educational Institutions Program (SAI). In FY 2020, CBF was funded at \$437,341. In FY 2021, The Maryland State Department of Education included CBF in its budget request, but without warning, the money was eliminated in the Governor's proposed budget. The same sequence repeated itself for FY 2022: MSDE requested the funding, and then the funding was zeroed out in the Governor's Budget.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation helps local school systems meet environmental literacy graduation requirements

CBF provides professional learning courses for approximately 200 Maryland teachers and school administrators every summer that provide immersive multi-day field experiences that help them craft curricula on the Bay's ecology, Chesapeake history, and citizenship. CBF's education program supports Maryland State Department of Education and local school systems in meeting environmental literacy graduation requirements, curriculum standards, and state commitments. The State's funding enables CBF to reach educators and help them provide lessons on Maryland's rich natural heritage and the Chesapeake Bay.

The State's program funding extends unique opportunities to economically disadvantaged students and schools

Each year, CBF's six Maryland education programs serve over 10,000 MD students and teachers at education sites in Annapolis, Baltimore, Havre de Grace, and at island centers on the Eastern Shore. CBF education programs reach every school district in Maryland nearly every year. For many students, the CBF program represents their first time being out on the water and having a hands-on experience with all the

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403
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living things that call the Chesapeake Bay home. With the State's educational funding, CBF is able to reduce program fees which benefits economically disadvantaged students and schools.

Without funding for Fiscal Year 2022 and future years, CBF may be forced to close programs and reduce service, depriving students of a rich real world learning opportunity that has been a unique part of Maryland education for over four decades.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 882.

For more information, please contact Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

Maryland school systems participating in CBF Education Programs

2015-2020	Teachers completing CBF Professional Development	Student Field Program Participants
Allegany	4	489
Anne Arundel	170	11,664
Baltimore	16	5,422
Baltimore City	106	8,643
Calvert	12	301
Caroline	1	0
Carroll	16	2,706
Cecil	5	82
Charles	7	195
Dorchester	0	91
Frederick	43	2,467
Garrett	0	362
Harford	57	2,548
Howard	46	3,613
Kent	3	510
Montgomery	275	14,305
Prince George's	123	1,681
Queen Anne's	4	1,172
Somerset	5	359
St. Mary's	46	970
Talbot	0	494
Washington	40	569
Wicomico	36	578
Worcester	2	778
TOTAL	1,017	59,999

SB 882_Hema Bhaskaran_SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Bhaskaran, Hema

Position: FAV

February 27th, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members,

My name is Hemalatha Bhaskaran and I am a teacher at James M Bennett High School in Salisbury. Imagine David Attenborough's voice saying, *"No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced"*. These words motivated me as new teacher 16 years ago to find every opportunity for my students to learn outside, experience their local environments, take pride in the communities, solve local issues so that they can care, appreciate and value their community. Chesapeake Bay Foundation has played a crucial role in creating all the opportunities for our students to have meaningful connections and experiences with both their school and their community.

CBF provides our students authentic learning experiences that prepares our students to be innovative thinkers and problem solvers. The outdoor field experiences that CBF provides creates opportunities for our students to develop flexibility, leadership and communication skills which are all essential to develop a 21st century workforce. The contributions of CBF go above and beyond students' learning the content. CBF's unique educational programs provide opportunities for social-emotional development which helps students build a sense of community. CBF has provided opportunities for our students and teachers to be leaders in our community. CBF has helped me grow professionally through Teacher Environmental Literacy Leadership program.

CBF is an integral part of my students' learning. While CBF's regular school programs are on hold, CBF has designed innovative programs that support our schools in the virtual and hybrid learning environments. Since last April, my students are learning about their community through CBF's Learn Outside Learn At Home (LOLA). Last semester my students were planning and conducting investigations with CBF educators through their Online Watershed Learning (OWL). This semester my students are looking forward to working with CBF.

I am kindly requesting you to **please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget**. Your support and restoration of funds will provide opportunities and experiences for students that will connect them to their communities. CBF's Education Programs have helped thousands of Maryland children make these deep connections to the bay and love their culture and community.

Sincerely,

Hemalatha Bhaskaran

1412 Killarney Dr

Salisbury, Md- 21804

SB 882_TEACHER_TESTIMONY_SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Carlos, Norah

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

CBF submits the enclosed testimony from teachers urging the Committee’s favorable report on SB 882 Operating Budget - Education Programs - Mandated Funding.

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Dear General Assembly Members,

CBF's Environmental Education Programs are important to me because they offer engaging relevant lessons to my students that align with the Next Generation Science Standards as well as their local environment. I have been participating in CBF programs since the late 1990s. My students have spent invaluable time canoeing, boating, and wading all while studying the Chesapeake Bay, their bay. The environment where they live becomes a part of their learning and they learn how to help the bay's future.

Participating in a CBF experience means so much to my students. Not only do they have an outdoor educational experience, but they learn how to use scientific equipment we don't have available in the classroom. Students analyze and compare data and use higher-level thinking skills to apply the information in real-world situations.

My participation in CBF programs has made an impact in my professional and personal life. I have taken 6 courses through CBF for educators. I have applied for master's level credits from different universities, and just recently received my master's +30 accreditation in no small part due to CBF. Most recently as this past summer, I participated in the pilot virtual course, The Art Lens. During a time of hardship and change, CBF hit a home run with this course. Activities were planned for teachers to conduct investigations from their home and local areas. Professionally, I found the course challenging and engaging and it offered many ideas for in-person and virtual teaching strategies for me to use with my students in the future. Personally, it offered me a chance to spend part of my quarantine investigating my local environment with the use of art. I needed this course for healing and reflection during my isolation.

It is important to continue offering these programs to get students and teachers outside and engaged with their environment in only ways CBF can offer.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget

Mrs. Laura Greenlee

Science Teacher at Severna Park High School - Anne Arundel County, MD
Home Address: 411 River Rd., Arnold, MD 21012

Dear General Assembly Members,

I run an outdoor program at a school in Annapolis. A key part of our programming is to have our students work with the Education Department of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in various grades. The resources and places that CBF can take our kids to is something that even a well funded school cannot complete on their own. Our field experiences with CBF are a backdrop for weeks of curriculum that lead up to the trips and we can follow up for the entire year when referring to what the students learned on the trips. Our internal polling of seniors at school shows that the 9th grade experience with CBF is the single most impactful experience of the students journey from K-12.

Our teachers also use the professional development opportunities from CBF to not only learn new teaching techniques, but more importantly to be inspired and to focus their work on local issues.

CBF's programs can have an incredible impact on the entire state of Maryland. Imagine a kid in Frederick County who lives on a farm and understands how the stream on his property affects the Bay, or the one in Pocomoke City who knows how that fish he caught is part of a much larger ecosystem. We need CBF to be a unifying force to help all Marylanders understand our connection to the Bay for our economic health as well as our physical health.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state aided institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education Budget.

Paul Bayne
Outdoor Department
The Key School
1019 Kensington Way
Annapolis MD 21403

2/16/21

Dear General Assembly Members:

I am a Baltimore County high school science teacher and rely on the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as a resource for my students and myself. The CBF's education programs can open my students' eyes to the importance of keeping our estuary clean and how our everyday actions affect the Bay. Many of my students live on or near the bay and want to learn about the importance of its' habitats and its' connection to clean water. I have participated in CBF educational programs and feel I have a better understanding of the Chesapeake Bay and can relate my knowledge to my students better because of the programs. The application of real data collection and analysis in the field with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is a valuable learning experience.

I currently teach Earth Systems in Baltimore County and often find connections between our content material and the Chesapeake Bay. The CBF has provided resources for teachers even when we cannot get out into the field because of the pandemic. I frequently use their educational videos and lessons for my own learning and during lessons with my students.

I recently learned that state funding for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Education Department was eliminated last year. This funding is critical for helping CBF continue to educate Maryland students and teachers like me. **PLEASE SUPPORT the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.**

Thank you,

Carole Blake
6101 Pinehurst Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
Perry Hall High School/Baltimore County

Dear General Assembly Members,

My name is Jocelyn Tuttle and I am a Baltimore County high school science teacher. I can honestly say that my journey to becoming a public school science teacher began with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. When I was in 6th grade, I had the opportunity to participate in one of their education programs and it opened my eyes to the importance of keeping our amazing estuary clean and how my everyday actions affect the Bay. During that field experience, the CBF educators inspired me to want to teach others about our waterways too. I have witnessed and participated in many CBF educational programs since 6th grade. Students emerge from their Chesapeake Bay Foundation experiences with an appreciation for science and natural resources that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. The application of real data collection and analysis in the field with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation cannot be replicated by sitting in the classroom or watching videos.

I currently teach Earth Systems (a required science course for freshman in Baltimore County) and not a unit goes by without connecting our content material to the Chesapeake Bay.

Even during the pandemic, while I teach from my home kitchen, the CBF has continued to provide resources for teachers like me! I frequently use their educational videos and lessons for my own learning and during lessons with my students.

I recently learned that state funding for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Education Department was eliminated last year. This funding is critical for helping CBF continue to educate Maryland students and teachers like me. **PLEASE SUPPORT the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.**

Sincerely,
Jocelyn A. Tuttle
Perry Hall High School
1821 Cromwood Road
Parkville, MD 21234

Chesapeake Bay Foundation's State Environmental Education Contract

Dear General Assembly Members,

I wish to express how strongly I feel about Governor Hogan's decision to cut the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's education program budget for a second year in a row. I believe the Governor has made a tremendous mistake by making the decision not to fund an organization that offers the most authentic and effective environmental education in the state of Maryland. I can say this because as a career public school science teacher, I taught hundreds of students that were lucky enough to have experienced real world lifelong learning through CBF programs. These environmentally literate students, who now have children of their own, continue to reach out to me and express how they are passing on the knowledge they gained from their CBF experiences to their children. They and their children are our hope for a healthy functioning Chesapeake Bay which reflects a healthy functioning six state watershed.

CBF's educational programs are grounded in educational principles that deliver lifelong learning for both students, teachers, and the public. As a teacher, they provided the knowledge, experience, and resources for me to then engage and educate my students, no matter their ability or socioeconomic level. The knowledge they gained in the classroom and their CBF educational experiences empowered them to understand and make informed decisions about environmental issues then and now as adults.

During this time when our public schools are hard pressed to fund resources for teachers and valuable hands-on experiences for students, support from CBF is especially critical.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Patricia Moore Ghingher,
Retired Baltimore County Public School Teacher
901 Hillside View Rd.
Parkton, MD 21120

February 17, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members-

Please restore funding to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. This organization has positively impacted the environmental community as well as many school communities. Over the years, CBF has partnered with many schools giving teachers and students outstanding opportunities to explore and better understand the importance of The Bay and watershed. I was lucky enough to be a staff member at North Bend Elementary School when we were a Bay School. Teachers and students worked together to explore, learn, problem-solve, goal set, and plan to keep our environment a vibrant and welcoming place. The level of comradery that was formed when we all had a common interest was powerful and unforgettable.

I understand during uncertain times that funding can be a challenge but please reconsider the importance of CBF's educational programs for students especially after a global pandemic. Students who have just experienced a year of quarantine coupled with virtual instruction realize the importance of our environment and the need to protect our valuable resources like the Chesapeake Bay. Students have come to appreciate the outdoors because that has been their safe haven. With your help, The Chesapeake Bay Foundation can continue to provide educational programs and experiences for students so their appreciation for The Bay and our environment can be enhanced through hands-on learning, exploration, problem-solving, and creative thinking.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget. Thank you in advance for your consideration and thoughtful response.

Sincerely,

Kate DiNatale

Kate DiNatale
North Bend Elementary School
1445 North Bend Road
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
Harford County

February 15, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members,

I am writing to tell you how important the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's education program is to myself and my students. I am in my 31st year of teaching and I have been working with CBF for most of those 31 years. They provide top quality education to my students – education that I would not be able to provide myself. I cannot take them out on the Bay, do water quality sampling, catch Bay animals and learn about them, or give them that firsthand knowledge of how important the Bay is to all of us and the impact they have on its health. I use CBF trips with all my science classes but particularly my Chesapeake Bay Watershed Science course where CBF plays a huge part. I run several programs with them because my students need that hands-on and minds-on challenge they provide. My students and myself feel more of a personal connection with the Bay through CBF -one I know would not have happened without them. It is imperative that they continue to have the ability to offer their programs – programs no other organization can provide.

PLEASE support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Respectfully,

Linn Lee Griffiths

3111 Harmony Church Road
Darlington, MD 21034
C. Milton Wright High School/Harford County

February 18, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members,

As education leaders of our communities, Howard County teachers and principals work hard every day to create meaningful learning experiences that go beyond the classroom and impact our students' lives. When I was an assistant principal at Hammond High School in Columbia I would see these kinds of transformative experiences happen for our science students every year, as they got the chance to join a Chesapeake Bay Foundation field investigation and do real science on a Chesapeake workboat, a canoe trip, or a stream investigation. Some of my students at Hammond High School students had never been out on the water before. Our students would return to the building talking about the trip for days and our teachers would use the trip as a focal point for their units of instruction in Biology.

As principal at Burleigh Manor Middle School, our science department makes outdoor environmental education a signature of our school program. Students' learning is deeper, richer, and more authentic when we can engage in the types of learning experiences like that created by The Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The benefits go far beyond academic learning as environmental education has benefits for social-emotional development and helps us build a sense of community among staff and students at BMMS. While the pandemic has put regular programming on hold, we are excited that CBF has redesigned their lessons to support our school in the virtual and hybrid learning settings and look forward to taking advantage of this programming.

I have personally seen the transformative power of outdoor education. I was shocked and greatly saddened to learn that Governor Hogan had cut all funding for CBF's education contract with Maryland Schools. For the benefit of Maryland students, **I urge you to support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding** in the MSDE budget.

Sincerely,

Mikaela R. Lidgard

Mikaela R. Lidgard
Principal
Burleigh Manor Middle School
Ellicott City, MD

Dear General Assembly Members,

Chesapeake Bay Foundation programs are fundamental to our ability to build the capacity of our teachers to instruct and engage thousands of students in environmental literacy and action. In addition, in a normal year hundreds of our students receive a first hand experience on the water learning about ecosystems in the best possible way. In this year of COVID, CBF joined our virtual Outdoor Ed team and is providing thousands of Grade 6 students the opportunity to learn about freshwater mussels from energized and fun CBF staff through a special virtual Zoom presentation. We need these programs to build an environmentally literate citizenry – programs that excite, engage, and teach students while building a connection to the environment that will last a lifetime.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Respectfully,

Laurie Jenkins

Laurie C. Jenkins
5602 Woodlyn Road
Frederick, MD 21703

Supervisor I MCPS Environmental Literacy K – 12
Montgomery County Public Schools
Outdoor Environmental Education Programs
5110 Meadows Lane I Derwood I MD 20855
Office Number: 240-740-1404
Twitter: @MCPSOutdoors Website:
<https://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/outdoored/>

Dear General Assembly Members,

The most important lessons that I can offer to students are the ones that help them connect to their home - the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, and our planet. That connection is built through experiences that immerse them in the lore, the science, the history, and the sense of place they get when they go into the field with experts in those topics.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is made up of people who absolutely love our region, its history, and the science behind keeping it healthy. These are the people who take students into marshes for days at a time to teach them about biodiversity and how humans impact our environment. They teach students about the science of sea level rise, temperature and salinity changes, and threatened habitats, through student-driven inquiry. These are the people who devote their lives and careers to making sure that Marylanders know why the Chesapeake Bay is vital to the region, and they help children cultivate a love of place through experiential learning.

There is no greater experience I can offer my students than taking them to Smith Island to meet folks who can tell them about how their lives and livelihoods are dependent on the health of their environment. My students get a different perspective on life, economics, and the environment by listening and learning from people who live so close to the bay. Students from urban and suburban areas can't know about what life is like on the Eastern Shore or along the bay if they don't get the opportunity to experience it themselves.

The hectic, noisy days of my students' lives leave them stressed and unaware of how quiet nature can be. On a field experience with CBF, they learn that the smell of a marsh can be something that means productivity. They learn to connect the pieces of ecosystems by lying down in the grass and seeing the tiny things that make up the fundamental parts of life in our bay. They make memories that will connect them to the bay forever.

Failure to support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget will take away opportunities from students for which there are no substitutes. You can't learn how to connect with the bay just by reading about it. You can't learn to love the bay if you never get to be a part of it. CBF's Education Programs have helped thousands of Maryland children make deep connections to the bay and have helped them learn to love and care for their home. Please support CBF by restoring funding.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Dinerman
Honors Biology
AP Environmental Science
HHMI BioInteractive Ambassador Teacher
Sherwood High School
Montgomery County
Maryland

Home address: 5601 Riggs Rd. Laytonsville, MD 20882

February 19, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members:

I am a long-time participant of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) Principal Leadership Program (PLP). My original opportunity to participate in the program was when I was a new principal at Summit Hall ES in Gaithersburg. My interest was prompted by a memorandum from the Montgomery County Public Schools' Outdoor and Environmental Educational Programs (OEEP). I had been associated with the program as a classroom teacher when I accompanied Grade 6 students to various sites in Maryland and Virginia for their outdoor education experience. After becoming a principal in 2003, I worked with my staff to work to becoming a Maryland Green School.

During the certification process, attending the PLP gave me a wealth of ideas to bring back to the staff. With help of OEEP staff and instructors from the local chapter of the Audubon Society, the school's lead teacher compiled an extensive record of student and staff experiences which was submitted to the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators (MAEOE). Our efforts were successful and in 2013 Summit Hall attained Green School status.

Later that year, the school was nominated by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for the U. S. Department of Education (USDE) Green Ribbon. After an additional compilation of the school's environmental experiences, the Green Ribbon was awarded to Summit Hall. The students and staff were thrilled and eagerly continued their efforts to live up to the standards the awards represented. The school's accomplishments were prompted by my initial and ongoing relationship with the CBF. My experiences have allowed me to mentor administrators from the Chesapeake Bay watershed as they begin their work to save the Bay.

Students continue to use monitor the school's energy use. Because of energy conservation, the school system's School Energy Resource Team (SERT) regularly awards Summit Hall rebates that the school can use to support student learning. The older students supervise younger students by giving up their recess periods to assist them to distinguish trash recyclable materials.

In order to ensure future generations can rescue the world's endangered environment and improve our state's treasured Chesapeake Bay, we need to redouble our efforts to get young people personally involved. To keep these essential activities alive, educators and students must have individuals with the expertise to lead the way and the resources to carry the work forward. My personal plea is for you to support the restoration of the CBF's State-Aided Institution funding in the MSDE budget.

Yours truly,

Keith R. Jones, Retired Principal
2018 Luzerne Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Summit Hall ES Montgomery County Public Schools

Dear General Assembly Members,

I have been teaching middle schoolers for twenty-five years and have participated in lots of field trips. Our annual day at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation with the sixth graders is a highlight of the school year, every year. The kids love it and learn a lot through hands-on activities that bring to life that they learn in the classroom.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Sincerely,

Liz Donelson
9202 Sudbury Road
Silver Spring, MD 20901
Sandy Spring Friends School
Montgomery County

February 17, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members:

I am writing to you to ask that you support the restoration of State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget - specifically for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Education Programs.

I teach in a PGCPSS middle school located in Landover, Maryland. Adjacent to our school property is a small stream and a wetland. We are part of the Anacostia Watershed. Over the past ten years we have collaborated with organizations like CBF, the Anacostia Watershed Society, and the William S. Schmidt Center to write curriculum, plant gardens, provide professional development opportunities for teachers, and take students on exciting field trips. We have done our best to implement the MSDE Environmental Literacy Standards because we believe they are important for our students to learn.

We have been working very hard to teach our students and faculty that human activity has direct consequences for our environment. CBF has played a vital and important role in this endeavor. Two of our teachers work with CBF over the summer to bring week-long professional development sessions to teachers throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Six of the teachers in our school have participated in these summer professional development opportunities. Our students have attended many field trips around the region to learn about how they can positively impact their environment. Over the past ten years, we've written two grants to access funds through the Chesapeake Bay Trust and over 1000 students have participated in Meaningful Watershed Experiences which brought them outdoors and into nature to experience place-based environmental education opportunities. We serve a diverse student population for whom these field trips are often their first opportunity to see the Chesapeake Bay which is less than 25 miles away. The Anacostia River is just five miles down Rt. 202. Our students crave these active, meaningful, real-life learning experiences.

CBF Education programs have been our partners, mentors, and inspiration for these powerful educational experiences. The Blueprint for Education promises to make sure that every student in every neighborhood has a great public school. CBF has been on this mission for the past several decades, and the results have been exceptional outdoor learning opportunities for adults and students. Nothing is more important than learning to live in a peaceful and healthy community. Learning to protect and care for our natural resources should be a #1 priority.

I own two homes. One in Virginia and one in Maryland - both are near or on the water. I grew up in Cape St. Claire, Maryland. I recall being a teenager in the 1970's, swimming in our local beaches and seeing dead fish floating in the water. We apparently were not smart enough then to know that we should protect our water quality, but I was starting to realize that if I did not personally care for my local environment - I had no one else to blame when it was stinky, dirty and unhealthy. I have made it my life's mission to teach children that they can make a difference in their local, national, and global communities. CBF helps me do that work every day.

I ask that you please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget. The educational opportunities provided by CBF are vital to the long-term protection of our natural resources in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Warmest regards,

Beth A. Novick
Beth Novick

Gifted Program Coordinator
Kenmoor Middle School | Prince George's County Public Schools | Landover, Md 20785

2.16.21

Dear General Assembly Members:

I have been a teacher with Prince George's County Public School, since August 2000. I began teaching at Kenmoor MS in Landover, Maryland in August 2019. Before that time, I taught at Lewisdale ES in Hyattsville, MD. In 2011, I took a two-week environmental workshop, which changed my life. During that time, I learned about the environmental issues facing our watershed. After that workshop, I began to explore many more opportunities to learn about the environment. Along the way, I learned about the important work conducted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. I also became a mentor teacher with them in 2013. As a mentor teacher, I continue to learn about the issues facing the Bay, plus I was able to bridge the gap between CBF's mission and the curriculum of PGCPs, by working with teachers in our county. During that time, I began to take my students to our local stream and conduct chemical, physical and biological testing with my students. I calculate that over 600 students benefited from what I learned from CBF and other environmental programs. Students were able to determine new career paths (water ecologist, microbiology), due to these rich experiences.

Once again, I would like to reiterate that environmental organizations, such as the CBF, provide many opportunities to learn about the environment and how our lives are impacted by it. Lewisdale ES is a Title 1 school, with many immigrants. Due to my relationship with the educators of CBF, my students learned about solid waste reduction and implemented a school wide recycling program completely run by fifth graders. Some students told me that they started recycling in their homes and talked to neighbors in their apartment buildings about the value of recycling material. No doubt, our visits to recycling centers, water treatment sites, and composting facilities (all organized by CBF), played a huge part in this awareness and willingness to act. Students also restored habitat in our school courtyard, which involved the whole community (parents/businesses/artists and the government agencies). We also did yearly clean up and green up activities in the community, at our school, and in the park where we did our water studies. Needless to say, these experiences were rich and memorable for our students.

Lastly, I strongly believe you should support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget. It is critical that the work CBF does through this funding is continued to meet the needs of all communities in Maryland.

Sincerely,
Wendy Rouget
18 Tabiona Court, Silver Spring, MD 20906
Teacher: Kenmoor MS/Prince George's County

February 16, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members,

I am writing to on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's environmental education programs to share the impact those programs have on students here at Gunston and beyond. Gunston has partnered with CBF for over twenty years to offer high quality and high impact environmental education. These experiences are embedded into our curriculum and responsible for the growing number of graduates pursuing environmental degrees and careers.

Though we are an independent school, over 65% of our students receive financial assistance in attending Gunston. Our Bay Studies program carries additional fees for families, fees that we are able to keep low through the support CBF receives from the Maryland State Department of Education budget. It has never been more important to financially support programs like CBF, that reach students across the state, and help to educate them on the pressing environmental threats in our region, including climate change. The hands-on, project based learning that CBF offers will be critical as we remediate the impacts of distance learning on our students.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Sincerely,
Emily Beck
Dean of Instruction and Innovation
The Gunston School
Centreville, MD 21617

Dear General Assembly Members,

As a Maryland resident and a Maryland educator, I have seen the countless hands-on learning opportunities for both students and teachers provided by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Even through the pandemic, CBF has evolved its' practice to reach teachers and their classes through a virtual lens. These experiences provide students and teachers with a deeper understanding not only of our state's ecosystem, but the vital importance of being good stewards of the environment. Participating in these opportunities opens eyes in a way that cannot be done through a school system's curriculum in a chair in the traditional classroom. Research shows us repeatedly the value of immersing oneself in a topic to truly understand and appreciate it, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation can do this through its many thoughtful and informative programs.

Not only does CBF provide opportunities to teachers and staff, but also to administrators. In 2017, I had the privilege of joining fellow administrators across the state on Smith Island. This experience gave me an opportunity to learn about island life, other schools' efforts to involve their students in CBF opportunities as well as gain a better understanding of the state's Green School process. My few days on Smith Island gave me an appreciation for the primitive state of the island, its history and its people as well reinforce the need to conserve it while bringing non-islanders to see the value of their way of life and dependency on the bay.

The Chesapeake Bay is our most valuable natural resource in the state of Maryland, and we know that as goes the health of the bay- so goes the health of the bay state. The goal of Chesapeake Bay Foundation is to educate our state and our children on the importance of the bay, the value it brings to our state and neighboring states, as well as the importance of conserving its species and their habitats. School systems are charged with presenting specific curriculum to students, and CBF serves as an exceptional supplement to enhance students' understanding of a variety of scientific concepts, as well as key concepts in social sciences. Without CBF's educational programs, there is a significant gap in our students' understanding of the need to be good stewards of our environment. Through CBF's learning experiences, students and school staff can take part in unforgettable learning opportunities which will stay with them for a lifetime.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Megan Shea Burton
20003 Cherry Hill Circle
Hagerstown, MD 21742
Assistant Principal at South Hagerstown High School, Washington County Public Schools

Megan Burton | Assistant Principal
South Hagerstown High School | 1101 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740
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SB 882_STUDENT TESTIMONY_SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Fink, Megan

Position: FAV



CBF submits the enclosed testimony from students urging the Committee’s favorable report on SB 882 Operating Budget - Education Programs - Mandated Funding.

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Amelia Farrell
Freshman at Anne Arundel Community College
Graduate of Annapolis HS International Baccalaureate
Anne Arundel County

My name is Amelia Farrell and I'm a graduate of Annapolis High School's International Baccalaureate Program. For over half my time in high school, I was involved with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as a part of their Student Leadership Program. My first experience with the Bay Foundation was going on a fall trip to Tangier Island- a tiny island in the Bay off the coast of Crisfield, Maryland. During that trip, a group of about 20 kids and I learned about the people and culture of Tangier Island itself, how to lead a tree planting, and just enjoyed time in nature. While this may not sound too life-changing, it was the exact opposite for me. This first trip I took with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation completely changed my outlook on the environment of Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay itself. I had gained a grand value and appreciation for environmental education and the protection of the natural beauty of Maryland.

CBF has provided countless environmental education experiences across Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia for students, and every experience I participated in provided me new, valuable information that I have taken in and used to better myself and the world around me.

What's so valuable about these programs is that they are truly building passionate leaders dedicated to bettering Maryland and the world. Through those experiences, students have developed the skills to advocate for causes and educate others, but also learned how to navigate the world for ourselves. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation doesn't tell students what to think they give us information, share data, and allow us opportunities to learn through hands on experience, which is the most important aspect of all. By exploring the Bay, its forests, farms, and streams, seeing Bay creatures up close to learn about them, and talking directly with both scientists and watermen, we are able to learn so much more than we ever would have sitting in a classroom. These vital opportunities are needed to support both education about the Bay and how to be a responsible and well-rounded individual.

For example, in the fall of 2019 I gave a presentation with another Student Leader from Pennsylvania and CBF's Student Leadership Coordinators at the Chesapeake Bay Alliance Watershed Forum, sharing how the Student Leadership Program works. We presented to restoration and education professionals, including teachers from Maryland, DC, Pennsylvania, and Virginia about how they can incorporate environmental education and youth leadership into their work. Our session was an hour and a half long, most of the respondents said their favorite part was that they

were able to hear directly from the students who were involved. Without my prior environmental education experiences with CBF, I would not have had the courage or professionalism to speak at that event. Again, the Student Leadership Program is unique and valuable because it combines learning about the Chesapeake Bay, this amazing and hugely important natural resource, with actual life skills, like public speaking, social and event organization, and civic engagement- standing up for what you believe in.

Unfortunately, my time as a high school Student Leader with CBF has come to an end, but my passion for protecting and preserving the environment has only grown. When I was filling out my college applications and had to list my intended major, it wasn't even a thought to list anything else but Environmental Studies. During my time with CBF, I was introduced to so many different ways to restore and protect the Bay, but I was hooked after my first community advocacy experience. I truly felt like I was making a difference when I talked to my local legislators about why they should support legislation that protects the environment, and the Bay as a result. I want my career to be dedicated to environmental protection in governance because that is where I truly believe change can be most effective. I was a passionate, determined person before my time in the Student Leadership Program, but now, thanks to the dozens of environmental education opportunities provided to me by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, I can use my skills for something bigger than me.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state.

Sincerely,

Amelia Farrell

Emily Pietrowski
633 Andrew Hill Road
Arnold, MD 21012
Broadneck High School

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Education Programs have given me opportunities to get outside I wouldn't have without. Getting outside is vital to learning about the environment, as it becomes more engaging and makes deeper connections than what a student could get in the classroom. I love working and learning with CBF as I can learn about our local environment. In the classroom, students may learn about what is happening in different countries, but CBF allows students to be hands-on in the environment that they live in. They can see the good and the bad of the Bay, which is such an amazing experience.

A time that I was working with CBF's Education Programs was when I visited one of the buildings for a career panel. My class got there and we walked around on the beach for a bit before heading inside to hear stories about different people who work at CBF and their jobs. We got snacks, heard stories, got to pin paper oysters with our take-aways on a fake oyster reef ball, and get up and walk around to talk to the panelists we heard from. After our thoughts, we were able to learn about how the building was sustainable, and I had amazing conversations with people who worked at CBF about soil erosion and acidification in the Bay. The next year, I was one of the speakers at this event, sharing my experience as a Chesapeake Bay Foundation Student Leader. Not only did this event inspire me to join CBF, but CBF taught me how much I could grow and positively impact the environment in my own way.

The programs are important as they give students a way to learn about new ways to save our planet. So many students are passionate about the environment but do not know where to start, CBF helps with that. CBF learning programs give new and engaging ways for students to learn about what is happening in their backyard. It is so important for students to think global and act local, and the CBF learning programs give them a path to do that.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state.

Sincerely,

Emily Pietrowski

Havana Mullaly
637 Maid Marion Rd.
Annapolis, Maryland 21405
Indian Creek High School

Hello, my name is Havana Mullaly, and I am a high school junior at Indian Creek High School. CBF's Environmental Education Programs are important to me because I have grown in my knowledge about how to help the environment through presentations that were given by the educational programs and through CBF's summer programs.

I enjoy working and learning with CBF because I have found a community of likeminded people who love the environment as much as I do. The Student Leadership Program at CBF is one of 6 environmental education programs in the state of Maryland and without this program I will lose so many great opportunities to help the environment. I am also a part of the Watershed Outdoor Bill of Rights team that is a part of the CBF Student Leaders program. Being a part of this team has made an impact on my life because I have grown in my public speaking and advocacy skills. I am looking forward to presenting the Watershed Outdoor Bill of Rights at a Youth Environmental Movement meeting, and without the guidance of CBF's education program, I will not be able to do this.

It is critical that all of CBF's Environmental Education Programs continue because it is empowering youth like me to get involved with saving the environment while learning in a safe environment. **Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state.**

Thank you,

Havana

Zoe Burke
607 Bellerive Court
Arnold, MD 21012
St. Mary's Annapolis High School

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation Environmental Education Programs are important to me because I care about the future of our environment. The programs provide informative and accessible ways to learn about the environmental issues impacting my community at the local and state level, as well as the environmental threats facing our nation and world.

One CBF program that has impacted my life is the Student Leadership Program. Participating in this program is a way for me to honor my dad who passed away last year. My dad enjoyed the natural world and we did many environmental activities together like going to Sandy Point Park, Bethany Beach, and canoeing in the Severn River. The Student Leadership Program is helping me to gain knowledge on how to be a lifelong advocate for the environment. I like working and learning with CBF because I know I am making a difference.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state.

Thank you very much,

Zoe Burke

Emma Bisson
3 Foxway Terrace
Towson MD, 21286
Towson High School

My name is Emma Bisson, and I am a junior at Towson High School. In the spring of 2020, I joined the CBF Student Leadership education program. Since then, this experience has had a profound impact on me as an environmentalist, as a leader, and as an individual. The CBF education programs provide valuable opportunities to students across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. **I humbly ask that you restore funding for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Environmental Education programs, so that these programs can continue to support future student leaders.**

It was the beginning of the pandemic when I was accepted to participate in the July student leadership masterclass as a Maryland student leader. That summer, several other camps, internships, and jobs that I had applied to were cancelled. To my surprise and happiness, the CBF education program did not cancel, but rather it adapted to a virtual setting. Even before I had participated in the summer leadership expedition, I was amazed by the dedication of CBF to providing educational programs to students, even when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges. This determination to educate, support, and empower students across the watershed is what makes the CBF education programs such an important opportunity for students.

Beginning with that summer expedition and through the rest of 2020, I have learned how to be an environmental activist. The CBF education programs have improved my public speaking skills and expanded my knowledge of the environment through experiential learning. Yet perhaps most importantly, these programs have allowed me to develop an openness to diverse perspectives. I have met many other student leaders through the summer expedition and monthly meetings and confluences. While we each share a similar goal of saving the bay and those who call it home, we each have unique experiences that influence our perspectives. It is through getting to know these students that I have developed a deep appreciation of and respect for all opinions, regardless of whether they coincide with my own beliefs. Leadership skills, education, and open-mindedness are all vital skills that are gained through the CBF education programs.

CBF education programs both inspire a passion for the environment and provide the tools necessary to advocate for the environment. Beyond the foundational knowledge of the environment and how it relates to our communities, these programs empower individuals to promote positive change. These programs provide support, while encouraging initiative. From working to form a Watershed Outdoor Bill of Rights, to drafting letters to representatives, to planning a project to

educate my community about monarch butterflies, the student leadership program has inspired me to advocate for change in ways I could not have imagined. My hope is that other students can experience the same spark of activism that comes with the dedication and support of the educators and fellow students of the student leadership program.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state. The CBF Education Programs are an opportunity for all high school students to develop leadership and life skills. They open the doors to connections that inspire collaboration and inclusiveness. The CBF Education programs inspire students to enact the change they hope to see in the world.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emma Bisson

Annie Fang
13309 Cleveland Drive
Rockville, MD 20850
Poolesville High School

Although I've only just joined this Chesapeake Bay Foundation Student Leadership Program this past summer, it has changed my everyday life. I've met so many amazing students and friends from all over the watershed who share the same passion as me. Without this program, there is no doubt that I would've never met these amazing, kind, human beings that I hold so much love for today.

This group of environmentally motivated students isn't just a group that cares only about trees and global warming. They genuinely care about you as a whole. What's been going on in your life, give you school and homework advice, and become lifelong friends. I know that the people I meet here are uniquely extraordinary.

This program has changed me so much. I've even started my own club and contrary to what most people would do, they have actively helped me to promote my club at every meeting and keep checking in on me to see how my club is running. The student leadership program is in short to say- the best group of people I've met. Everyone is so kind and welcoming, and I really hope those after me can meet another group of amazing, kind, and environmentally aware students as I have!

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state.

Thank you!

Annie

Cindy Pham
18916 Festival Drive
Boys, MD 20841
Poolesville High School

CBF's Environmental Education Programs are important to me because they have helped hundreds of students meet others who have similar passions and helped them to make something of it. You can grow on that interest with others and the educators are always really helpful. I enjoy being a part of CBF and learning in the Student Leadership Program because I learned more about myself, I met some amazing people, I was able to do some things that I didn't think I could do, and I could help spread awareness and hold fundraisers for environmental issues.

I joined CBF last year, but due to COVID, I was limited in what I could do. However, I remember the first time I talked with older student leaders. It was on Poolesville Day, where we had a booth for our club, and gave out brochures and other items to promote CBF. These leaders inspired me to look into how I can help. I think these moments pushed me a little more out of my comfort zone, in a good way, to do things that I originally would have probably declined. So yes, it is important to me that these programs are continued to be offered because I'm sure there are other people like me, who could go on to do things that they are passionate about, with guiding and teammates. It could be life changing.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state.

Sincerely,

Cindy

Connor Ransom
17220 General Custer Way
Poolesville, MD 20837
Poolesville High School

Hello, I am Connor Ransom, a senior at Poolesville High School in Poolesville, Maryland, and I am writing to you today to voice my **support for the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's State Aided Institution funding.**

I have had the amazing opportunity to participate in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Environmental Education Programs numerous times. I have been on five school field trips with CBF, three of them overnight trips to their island centers, as well as one summer trip to Fox Island, and countless other experiences and events through the Student Leadership Program. I have always found CBF's education programs to be incredibly effective, not just teaching me, but helping me retain the information, getting me excited about environmental education, and encouraging me to stay involved, learn more, and have a positive impact on my community.

Every experience I have had with CBF has been fantastic, from the expert educators to the amazingly fun lessons. Teaching environmental education in the classroom can certainly be effective and is undoubtedly essential, but seeing oysters in a video just can't compare to being on a boat and actively looking through a fresh catch to learn about oysters, biodiversity, and the importance of oyster reefs to the health of the Bay. While the excitement CBF gives to education is incredible, I think there's an even more important part about their education programs. CBF doesn't just teach kids about the environment, they give them powerful life skills which help develop them into deep thinkers, good researchers, strong leaders, and effective advocates.

CBF has always given me the tools to learn about and fight for the issues I care about, and to me that is the best part of CBF education and what sets it apart from any other education I have had. CBF has better equipped me to make decisions about what is important, develop solutions to issues in my community, and voice my opinion to both my peers and my elected officials. Every student in Maryland deserves to be able to experience the same amazing education opportunities I have. **Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state.**

Sincerely,

Connor Ransom

Hannah Fox
6402 Ridge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20816
Walt Whitman High School

My name is Hannah Fox. I'm a 9th grader at Walt Whitman High School. Just recently, I became a part of the Student Leadership Program at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. I have already learned so much more about the local environment even in the virtual format. I have gotten to attend inspiring meetings with other student leaders from Maryland, hear from scientists, meet student leaders from all over the region, gain a better understanding of state government, receive guidance to start a club at my school focused on conserving the Bay, and have had the opportunity to share my voice about the importance of taking action to protect the environment. Coming up, I am so excited to receive training to improve my advocacy skills and be able to go on summer expeditions once it is safe to do so.

Like so many others, I haven't been able to go to school because of the pandemic. I haven't been able to go to band competitions. I haven't been able to try out for school sports teams. But I have been able to get involved in the CBF Student Leader Program. It has opened doors for me that I didn't know existed. This program is so important to so many students, which is why state funding is so critical. If you stop supporting CBF education programs, you stop supporting the students who are passionate about advocating for the environment.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state.

Thank you,

Hannah Fox



Lillian S. Hsu
11705 Tall Pines Drive
Germantown, Maryland 20876
Poolesville High School

My experiences with CBF's Environmental Education Programs have expanded my worldview beyond just my neighborhood in northern Montgomery County. As someone who has lived in Maryland their entire life, I had no idea about the fishing communities or the islands that inhabited the Chesapeake Bay until my first CBF bay trip with my high school. It taught me that there was more to our state than just what I could see in my suburban neighborhood. The decisions made and policies created must take into account the different communities across the state, from the rural parts of western Maryland to the coastal areas on the eastern shore.

Our unique access to the Chesapeake Bay is a treasure to our state. Yet there are many people that take it for granted or are not even aware of the impact it has on our lives. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and their environmental education programs are crucial in promoting environmental literacy and protecting our Bay.

These programs provide education to our next generation of leaders and opportunities for them to lead and create a positive impact on our community. The hands-on experiences teach them about the world we inhabit and how to protect the environment we have learned to love.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state.

Sincerely,

Lillian

Olisaneme Okonkwo
First Year at Harvard University
Graduate of Poolesville High School Global Ecology Program
Montgomery County

Education, how and what we teach students has always been a hot topic. There are many critiques and concerns. Are we spending enough? Are we investing in the right places? Some claim that what's being taught in school isn't preparing students for the real-world. How can we teach the most valuable lessons that will create active, hardworking, and informed citizens ready to address the many problems we face as a society? Environmental Education is the answer. It is the foundation of a well-rounded education. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Environmental Education Programs have fundamentally transformed my life. I wasn't really an outdoorsy person growing up, but thanks to CBF, I now prefer to be outside. CBF has given me the opportunity to learn about myself and my environment. When I learned about the challenges facing our watershed, CBF gave me the tools to take action and surrounded me with individuals who stemmed from a variety of backgrounds, but all had the same goal in mind: working together to solve the complex challenges facing our Bay, our economy, our communities.

My CBF Student Leadership experiences taught me that I can make a difference in the world, even as a teenager. If you want students who have been taught the importance of citizenship and who understand that their actions have consequences, then environmental education is essential. In this ever-changing world, creativity, and ability to take initiative are integral qualities of a successful citizenry. While school can certainly teach students a great amount of information, it is experiences that teach skills and form mindsets. No classroom is comparable to the outdoors. Even through the lens of a traditional education, the opportunities when learning outside are endless. History, government, biology, chemistry, engineering, and human health are also subjects in the environmental debate. The environment provides a path to engage and teach students about all aspects of the world around them. Experience trumps book work. Why learn about the Bay, oysters, and rockfish through a textbook or webpage when I can see the Bay with my own eyes, feel the coarse shell of an oyster, and watch the squirming, scaly rockfish shimmer in the sunlight. Through CBF's Environmental Education Programs, I learned about these flora and fauna not through pages of a book, but through catching them myself and holding them in my own hands. If given the choice between these two ways of learning about the Bay, I definitely prefer the latter.

I am but one of the hundreds of thousands of Maryland students who have fallen in love the Bay on CBF Environmental Education experiences, and I am here to represent their voices, too. When I served as President of Poolesville High School's

Chesapeake Bay Coalition, I saw students willingly use their time and energy to help restore the Bay, inspired to learn more about their local environment. I led an invasive species removal at a Montgomery County Park in my community followed by a native species planting a few weeks later. Fellow CBF student leaders and members of the Chesapeake Bay Coalition showed up to volunteer. All of these individuals were empowered and become active citizens due to their environmental education and experiences with CBF. I have carried my passion for protecting and persevering the outdoors with me to college and have recently applied to be a leader in the Harvard First-Year Outdoor Program to help create experiences just like those I've had with CBF. The Bay has given me experiences that I will never forget, and if you invest in Environmental Education, it can continue to do that for young people like me and countless others in the future.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state.

Sincerely,

Olisaneme Okonkwo

Saatchi Barochia
13640 Glenhurst Rd
North Potomac, MD 20878
Poolesville High School

CBF's Environmental Education Programs have allowed me to pursue whatever facets of environmental activism I'm passionate about; whether being environmental justice or climate reform. The diversity in programs cater to students of all learning profiles - on field-based trips I can learn interactively and hands-on about the different ecosystems of the Bay while in-classroom visits from professionals in a plethora of scientific areas bring the watershed directly to me.

The health of our planet has been a concern to me since I was little - but my trip to Kenya a couple years ago only exacerbated this worry as I saw first-hand the extreme effects of urbanization and climate change. My field trip to Smith Island through the Foundation kickstarted my advocacy journey in middle school, which I've pursued through my high school's Global Ecology Studies Program and county-wide Student Government Association as a CBF Liaison - connecting driven students from across the region to CBF educators and programs. When another student asks me how to begin in the intimidating world of activism, I refer them straight to CBF - because chances are, whatever issue resonates with them is intersectional with something the organization strives for. They've shown me how to take responsibility for my impact on the environment, refined my leadership skills, and taught me how to take into account multiple perspectives when working toward a solution.

It is vital these programs continue to be offered. They are an outlet for brilliant and creative ideas through which a community of like-minded individuals who care deeply about the preservation of natural spaces for future generations can incite meaningful change.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state.

Thanks,

Saatchi Barochia

Sophia Ashley Liang
14183 Travilah Rd
Rockville, MD 20850
Poolesville High School

The first time I ever heard about CBF's Student Leadership Program, one of their 6 Environmental Education Programs offered in Maryland, was from my 9th grade biology teacher. She spoke about how you had the opportunity to go on summer expeditions on islands in the Bay, and meet new people from all over the watershed. I knew right away that I had to sign up and that was the first thing I did when I got home. Weeks later, I received an email of my acceptance from the program coordinator and an invitation to their upcoming summer expeditions. That year though, they were going to be run virtually due to COVID. So although I wasn't going to be able to get the full in-person experience of visiting the islands and riding boats through the Bay, I still took up the opportunity and spent two weeks of my summer learning all about environmental advocacy and the health of the watershed - from riparian buffers to heat islands and from oysters to birds.

I enjoyed every second I spent on the virtual expeditions where I met other students passionate about the environment and cultivated my love, appreciation, and concern for the Chesapeake Bay. It is because of CBF and their Student Leadership Program that I have the chance to advance how I can advocate for, raise awareness about, and take action to save the Bay. Without CBF's Environmental Education Programs like this one, I, and so many other students like me, wouldn't get to gain the knowledge and awareness about the environment that we live in and interact with every day. We also wouldn't be able to find the same opportunities like letter writing and tree planting that CBF offers us to empower us to protect our environment.

CBF's Student Leadership Program has impacted me in so many ways, one of the biggest ways is making my voice heard. From all my treasured experiences in the outdoors - hiking, fishing, camping, white water rafting, and much more - I have developed deep care for keeping the environment healthy and protected so that I and the rest of the residents on this planet can continue to make one-of-a-kind memories immersed in nature. Advocating for environmental legislation is invaluable to fighting for this environment that I care so much about. I still remember the very first letter I sent to my Senator as a thank you for his support for passing the American Conservation Enhancement Act. Then two months later, I received a reply from his office and to this day I still can't believe that my email - among the hundreds of other emails, letters, and postcards he probably receives on a daily basis - was read and replied to. I felt grateful knowing that my words that communicated my support for environmental protection were acknowledged by my Senator.

With the hope that I can continue expressing my support for environmental legislation and influencing my representatives to support what I believe in, I take up as many advocacy opportunities that CBF shares with me as I can. It truly is something that I want to use my voice to make a difference in. Not only do CBF's Environmental Education Programs provide me with these resources, but the program coordinators help and encourage me along the entire way, which is why I am always appreciative of their support.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state. Through CBF's Environmental Education Programs, I am able to learn more about advocacy opportunities, connect with other students who share my passion, and take the initiative to save the environment that I am so fortunate to be able to protect.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sophia Ashley Liang
Phone: 240-550-2215

MD Humanities Written Testimony for SB882 for 0303

Uploaded by: Heinsman, Aaron

Position: FAV



108 West Centre Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-4565

(410) 685-0095
www.mdhumanities.org

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Testimony from Maryland Humanities re:
SB882

March 3, 2021

Maryland Humanities offers this testimony in support of proposed SB882. This bill would require mandated level funding at the FY21 level in FY23 and hopefully restore the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) as a recipient of critical grant funding for its educational programming for youth via the SAI (“State-Aided Institution”) grant program of the Maryland State Department of Education.

Thank you to the committee for its past support of this vital resource for non-profit organizations that offer critical, supplementary educational experiences to Maryland youth. Maryland Humanities is one of 56 nonprofits currently funded through the program and currently is one of 44 nonprofits collectively advocating on behalf of the SAI program as part of MASO, or the Maryland Alliance of SAI Organizations. CBF is a fellow MASO member, despite having been cut from the SAI program in FY21 and proposed again in FY22.

Efforts to sustain the SAI program and restore funding to FY20 levels—including the inclusion once more of CBF—are so necessary. Nonprofits provide essential experiential learning opportunities for hundreds of thousands of Maryland students annually. This bill is a positive first step in that direction.

Maryland Humanities programs reach students in every jurisdiction—all 23 counties and Baltimore City. Our statewide **Maryland History Day—our only program directly supported by SAI funding**—served more than 30,000 middle and high school students from all 24 jurisdictions during the 2019–20 school year, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and remote learning.

We respectfully ask the members of the committee to approve the bill and support any additional efforts to restore funding for the program to the FY20 level, which totaled \$6,276,446.

SB 882_Sophia Liang_SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Liang, Sophia

Position: FAV

Sophia Ashley Liang
14183 Travilah Rd | Rockville, MD 20850
Poolesville High School

The first time I ever heard about CBF's Student Leadership Program, one of their 6 Environmental Education Programs offered in Maryland, was from my 9th grade biology teacher. She spoke about how you had the opportunity to go on summer expeditions on islands in the Bay, and meet new people from all over the watershed. I knew right away that I had to sign up and that was the first thing I did when I got home. Weeks later, I received an email of my acceptance from the program coordinator and an invitation to their upcoming summer expeditions. That year though, they were going to be run virtually due to COVID. Although I wasn't going to be able to get the full in-person experience of visiting the islands and riding boats through the Bay, I still took up the opportunity and spent two weeks of my summer learning all about environmental advocacy and the health of the watershed - from riparian buffers to heat islands and from oysters to birds.

I enjoyed every second I spent on the virtual expeditions where I met other students passionate about the environment and cultivated my love, appreciation, and concern for the Chesapeake Bay. It is because of CBF and their Student Leadership Program that I have the chance to advance how I can advocate for, raise awareness about, and take action to save the Bay. Without CBF's Environmental Education Programs like this one, I, and so many other students like me, wouldn't get to gain the knowledge and awareness about the environment that we live in and interact with every day. We also wouldn't be able to find the same opportunities like letter writing and tree planting that CBF offers us to empower us to protect our environment.

CBF's Student Leadership Program has impacted me in so many ways, one of the biggest ways is making my voice heard. From all my treasured experiences in the outdoors - hiking, fishing, camping, white water rafting, and much more - I have developed deep care for keeping the environment healthy and protected so that I and the rest of the residents on this planet can continue to make one-of-a-kind memories immersed in nature. Advocating for environmental legislation is invaluable to fighting for this environment that I care so much about. I still remember the very first letter I sent to my Senator as a thank you for his support for passing the American Conservation Enhancement Act. Then two months later, I received a reply from his office and to this day I still can't believe that my email - among the hundreds of other emails, letters, and postcards he probably receives on a daily basis - was read and replied to. I felt grateful knowing that my words that communicated my support for environmental protection were acknowledged by my Senator.

With the hope that I can continue expressing my support for environmental legislation and influencing my representatives to support what I believe in, I take up as many advocacy opportunities that CBF shares with me as I can. It truly is something that I want to use my voice to make a difference in. Not only do CBF's Environmental Education Programs provide me with these resources, but the program coordinators help and encourage me along the entire way, which is why I am always appreciative of their support.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state Funding for Educational Organizations so that CBF can continue to offer these important experiences to students across the state. Through CBF's Environmental Education Programs, I am able to learn more about advocacy opportunities, connect with other students who share my passion, and take the initiative to save the environment that I am so fortunate to be able to protect.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sophia Ashley Liang
Phone: 240-550-2215

SB882.HB1053.INFORMATIONAL.MDRTL.L.Bogley.pdf

Uploaded by: Bogley, Laura

Position: INFO

Informational Statement – SB882/HB1053

Operating Budget for Education

Laura Bogley, JD - Director of Legislation, Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our members across the state, we urge the members of the Maryland General Assembly to protect Maryland school children from being preyed upon by the abortion industry. We will make every effort to prevent Planned Parenthood and other abortion businesses from setting up shop in our children's schools.

While the Supreme Court through an extreme act of judicial activism overturned Maryland's criminal ban on abortion and created a federal right to abortion, there is no legal right for abortion organizations to operate on public property or to be compensated through public funding.

The Maryland State Department of Education is entrusted by parents and the state with the education of Maryland children. The state has taken it upon themselves to provide Reproductive Health curriculum and services. The state has contracted those responsibilities out to third parties, including to Planned Parenthood and other organizations and health providers that advocate for abortion and provide abortion counseling and referral. These services are being offered without parental knowledge or consent. Each year the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland State Department of Education force taxpayers to subsidize the abortion industry not only through Medicaid reimbursements and Family Planning Program fungibility, but also through grants and contracts awards. In 2020 MDH gave Planned Parenthood nearly \$80,000.00 in Covid relief grant monies. The Maryland State Department of Education has failed in their duty to parents and students to ensure that contractors are providing medically accurate and age appropriate health education and services.

There is bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. State funding for abortion on demand is in direct conflict with the will of the people. In fact, 58% percent of those surveyed say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion, including 31% of Democrats, 83% of Republicans, and 65% of independents. 80% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children.

Funding restrictions are constitutional - The Supreme Court has held that the alleged constitutional "right" to an abortion "*implies no limitation on the authority of a State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds.*" When a challenge to the constitutionality of the Hyde Amendment reached the Supreme Court in 1980 in the case of *Harris v. McRae*, the Court ruled that the government may distinguish between abortion and other procedures in funding decisions -- noting that "*no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life*" -- and affirmed that *Roe v. Wade* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote against the expansion and funding of any NARAL or Planned Parenthood or affiliated organization endorsed programs or policies in Maryland schools. Thank you.

SB 882 Op Buget-Educ Programs (Guzzone) B&T 3.3.21

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 882 Operating Budget – Education Programs – Mandated Funding (Guzzone)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: March 3, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 882 mandates an appropriation in FY 2023 for each of the programs within the Funding for Educational Organizations (R00A03) equal to the greater of the funding for the program in FY 2021 or FY 2022, plus an additional \$150,000.

EXPLANATION: HB 1053 mandates a total of \$1.3 million in FY 2023, including increased funding for: Maryland School for the Blind; Blind Industries and Services of Maryland; Other Institutions; Aid to Nonpublic Schools; and Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which requires spending allocations for FY 2022 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2020.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19, making revenue predictions for the remainder of FY 2021 and FY 2022 highly volatile. Many individuals and households are unemployed or underemployed, with many industry sectors operating at much less than 100% capacity. Federal stimulus programs are providing much needed relief, but the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability.

The General Assembly and Administration have successfully enacted the Governor's emergency Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families Act (SB 496 RELIEF Act), which provides \$1.1 billion in direct stimulus and tax relief for Maryland working families, small businesses, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is incumbent upon us to allow the impact of this unprecedented relief package on the State's economy to take effect. Further mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of an ongoing pandemic.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
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