

2/16/21

BILL: SB0076
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 2/18/2021
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation
SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

I'm Julia Hananel, and I'm an eighteen year old student at University of Maryland, where I'm a member of the AcClimate environmental club.

Like many other students my age, climate change has been on my mind throughout my teenage years. I've grown up hearing about how my family lost their home and possessions in New Orleans because of Hurricane Katrina. They experienced firsthand how a natural disaster can devastate a community and completely alter people's lives. Severe weather events are just one of the many crises brought by climate change, and they're occurring more frequently and with greater intensity.

By passing the Climate Crisis and Education Act, Maryland has the opportunity to take direct action to reduce our emissions, helping curb the drastic effects of climate change.

Climate change looms in our minds when my friends and I talk about our futures. Will we be able to live somewhere with healthy enough air quality to breathe? Can we find somewhere without severe, destructive weather patterns? There are fewer and fewer places that meet these criteria.

We've been betrayed by previous generations, and are now left to solve this catastrophic issue of alarming scale. We're frustrated with the lack of leadership on climate change, and elected officials who don't seem to care about our future. Like many other students, I've channeled my frustration into action. I've skipped school to protest for climate action, knowing my education is meaningless if there is no hope for a healthy planet.

Maryland's coastal location makes it one of the most vulnerable states when it comes to the impacts of climate change. Low-lying areas are already dealing with frequent flooding -- Annapolis is one of the most frequently flooded areas on the

East Coast. Our farms will suffer more and more from rising temperatures and droughts.

Bold climate action is long overdue, and the Climate Crisis and Education Act is an excellent place to start. As someone who has gone through the Maryland public school system K through 12, I am excited to have a bill that addresses climate change while providing funds for our schools. I'm proud to be from Maryland, and I want to see Maryland be a leader in the nation on climate policy.

For these reasons and more, I, Julia Hananel from AcClimate, urge a favorable report on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee