

2/18/2021

BILL: SB0076
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 2/18/2021
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters
SPONSOR: Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo

My name is Joshua Winston. I am an undergraduate student studying Public Policy at the University of Maryland, focusing on International Security and climate change while serving as the president of black students and public policy. As a 22-year-old, climate change issues will uniquely impact me through the rest of my life; however, I hope legislators understand the crisis. Work will begin to decrease carbon emissions before it is too late, which is why I offer my written testimony today in support of Senator Kramer's bill, The Climate Crisis and Education Act. Students are no longer willing to wait for the crisis to begin when unique carbon pricing solutions exist, only awaiting implementation through our legislators' vote.

As a Maryland resident going through programs in elementary school for Earth Day where they gave us a tree to plant in our backyard or middle school during outdoor education where they taught us the beauty of the environment, I believe Maryland can fight against climate change—introducing an economic-based solution to reduce greenhouse gas output through the passage of The Climate Crisis and Education Act. With one of the longest shorelines in the country comprised of riparian zones needed for the Bay's ecological health, rising air pollution threatens the health and wellness of residents of our state. The State of Maryland should set out an aggressive goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through an economical solution using practical solutions already at the state's disposal.

SB0076, "The Climate Crisis and Education Act," is currently a bill, which will be the first significant carbon pricing bill to affect Maryland. This bill will help plug the gaps in funding made by the Kirwan Commission. Through the creation of the Kirwan fund derived

from proceeds of the greenhouse gas pollution fees. Along with a household and employer benefit fund to protect low and moderate-income families in the state.

This legislation also acknowledges the necessary solutions required to address the climate crisis, such as rebates on electric vehicle sales, electric public, and school transportation to expand electric vehicle infrastructure and create local economic development and employment opportunities using the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund.

For these purposes above, I support the passage of SB0076B climate crisis and Education Act. I would like to thank the committee for their time and opportunity to provide written testimony.

For these reasons and more, I Joshua Winston representing Black Students in Public Policy urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee