

SB0228 Testimony - Parker.pdf

Uploaded by: Andy Parker

Position: FAV

My mother spent her entire career working for the local school district, following in the footsteps of my grandmother, who was a high school teacher. My family emphasized the importance of service from an early age, both as volunteers in our free time and through our careers.

As I finished college, I knew that I wanted to work in government, but had no idea where to begin. I applied for full-time jobs and attended career fairs without any luck, and was considering giving up on the goal of working in government. On the advice of a good friend, I applied for a public service fellowship program that provided a one-year placement in a government position. That single fellowship experience had a transformative impact on my career. I spent every day doing meaningful, impactful work that stretched me and helped me grow as a professional. I met people who remain close friends and mentors. And by the end of the year, I knew where I wanted to take my career.

Looking back ten years later, I'm surprised by all the ways that this single experience shaped my life and career trajectories. First, the job experience itself reinforced my commitment to a service-focused career, and since that time I've continued on this path through a series of government and non-profit roles.

Second, the experience was so much more than a job. I received yearlong support and training through the fellowship program, including advice on work and career questions. At the office, I benefited from the mentorship and guidance of my supervisor, who set aside time to talk with me about my professional goals.

Finally, the fellowship helped me build a network that has supported me throughout my career. As I finished the fellowship year in 2012, one of my co-workers gave feedback on my resume and shared interview tips. Another made a series of introductions, one of which led to my next job (and to the job after that). And I've stayed in touch with other fellows from my program, sharing updates and advice back and forth as we navigate our careers.

I was fortunate to have this opportunity. Across the country each year, thousands of people apply for service positions that are too often in short supply. I strongly support this Maryland Corps legislation because it will ensure accessible, quality service opportunities are available across the state.

SB 228 MACC_FAV_B.Phillips.pdf

Uploaded by: Brad Phillips

Position: FAV



**SENATE BUDGET AND TAX
AND
EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

TESTIMONY

**Submitted by
Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director
Maryland Association of Community Colleges**

February 9, 2022

**BILL: SB 228 – Maryland Corps Program - Revisions
POSITION: Favorable**

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), which represents Maryland's sixteen (16) community colleges, supports Senate Bill 228 and respectfully requests that the Committee issue a favorable report on this legislation.

The Maryland Corps Program, in conjunction with the AmeriCorps Program, incentivizes participation in meaningful social service and the participants' pursuit of higher education and employment-enhancing certifications. The Maryland Corp Program could help develop a more skilled and educated workforce, essential to Maryland's continued economic growth. The Program could also provide more equitable access to opportunity, which is required to address the social needs of all Maryland communities.

MACC supports the goals of this legislation and believes that a Maryland Corps Program can make a difference in the lives of program participants and the communities in which they live and serve.

SB0228 - 2.9.22 -- Maryland Corps Program - Revisi

Uploaded by: Donald Fry

Position: FAV



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 228 – Maryland Corps Program-Revisions

Sponsor – Senator Ferguson

February 9, 2022

DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

Senate Bill 228 creates and funds a quasi-public agency focused on coordinating service opportunities in the State of Maryland that match 21st century needs of participants and communities through the expansion of service year and national service opportunities. The bill would remove barriers to entry so those who would benefit most from service years have the ability to participate in the program. It would also build new pathways to service by scaling up service slots with existing organizations, incentivizing large-scale employers to offer service year opportunities, and building opportunities within State and local government.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill 228 as it enhances the role of Maryland Corps to serve as an intermediary with both the federal government and the private sector, allowing for effective, targeted coordination to address the state's most pressing needs. Many existing service programs create unintentional barriers to entry, largely due to insufficient monetary stipends and benefits. This bill would mitigate this issue by funding all service slots with the equivalent of a \$15 an hour stipend, health insurance, and the potential for wraparound services including but not limited to child care, transportation, housing, mental health services, and more. It would also provide a \$6,000 education award through a tax-exempt Maryland 529 account to participants who complete a nine month term of service, eliminating unforeseen tax burdens created through similar programs. Similarly, individuals who complete a service year through Maryland Corps would become automatically eligible for in-state tuition.

The other much needed component of this legislation is a sustainable funding mechanism designed to expand service opportunities in every region of the State to meet each area's individual needs. By Maryland Corps acting as an intermediary with AmeriCorps, the administrative burden placed on local organizations will be mitigated, thereby allowing them to easily access funding and create service slots. A matching fund for large-scale employers will incentivize institutions like hospitals, universities, and other private sector employers to create service slots to meet growing workforce needs.

This approach is consistent with one of the core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth outlined in the GBC report, *Gaining A Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*:

Government leadership that unites with business as a partner. Maryland leaders must set a welcoming tone that communicates positive support for business, respect for the private sector as a partner, not an adversary, and reflects a strategic plan for business growth and job creation

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 228.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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SB228- Johns Hopkins - Support v. 2.7.2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Hafey

Position: FAV

SB228

Favorable

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Elizabeth A. Hafey
Associate Director, State Affairs,
Johns Hopkins University and Medicine

DATE: February 9, 2022

Johns Hopkins **supports Senate Bill 228 Maryland Corps Program – Revisions.** This bill provides essential resources to support the Maryland Corps Program, allowing the Program to expand its value in Maryland.

The Maryland Corps was created in 2016 to recruit 100 young people to do a service year in Maryland through providing a \$15,000 per year stipend, as well as \$6,000 educational award. The Maryland Corps board has not been appointed yet. The Maryland Corps Program Fund has never been fully-funded. A mandatory appropriation of \$150,000 was passed in 2020, but was vetoed and will not be available until fiscal year 2023.

SB228 creates an infrastructure that supports the program and establishes a quasi-public agency to coordinate services, removes barriers to entry so those who would benefit most from service years have the ability to participate, and builds new pathways to services.

Johns Hopkins University has many talented students that are dedicated to bettering their communities and would welcome the opportunities provided through the expanded Maryland Corps Program. The Maryland Corps fills a crucial need of encouraging young people to stay in Maryland by creating internships and employment opportunities for the best and brightest to deliver intensive service within the entire State.

For too long, the Maryland Corps Program has been under-resourced. **Johns Hopkins urges a favorable report on SB228.** This is an important legislation that would create opportunities for many Marylanders and provide long-term benefits to the state.

MOST_SUPPORT_SB0228.MDCorps (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Ellie Mitchell

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

SB0228 — Maryland Corps Program – Revisions – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee;

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST is one of the fifty statewide networks supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and serves as Maryland's affiliate to the National Afterschool Association.

The MOST Network strongly supports the proposed revisions to the Maryland Corps program. If implemented, these budgetary and recruiting measures would improve the program's effectiveness as a state-sponsored service organization, making invaluable contributions to the professional development of the program's participants and the communities they serve.

MOST has served as an AmeriCorps VISTA program since 2012 and has placed over 100 full term service members with non-profit organizations throughout the state. As such, our perspective of ideal operation structures and necessary adjustments comes from our own experience in expanding, strengthening, and redesigning this program for each succeeding year of CNCS grant applications & continuations. **Our perspective is also informed from collecting feedback from current and former service members, as well as service host sites, and other stakeholders** associated with our program that have served in informal advisory roles.

The proposed measures prioritize the Maryland Corps' efforts to alleviate regional, racial, and socio-economic disparities across the state by improving the program's recruitment practices. These revisions emphasize HBCUs, trade schools, and high schools with low rates of college attendance post-graduation as critical sources of service personnel. In addition, Maryland Corps board members appointed by the Senate President must possess robust public service credentials, having represented a Maryland-based service organization for at least three years. **This refined appointment process outlined in the bill thus balances the need for program expertise with a strong commitment to the diversity of Maryland Corps participants.**

Critically, this bill also provides the program with the financial resources necessary to carry out its prescribed duties. Here, personnel and recruitment issues are also relevant, as HB0443 stipulates that all participants will receive a stipend of at least \$15 an hour, including health insurance benefits and additional wraparound services. This contributes to overall program participant retention and meets the Maryland Corps commitments to equity and fairness. Perhaps most importantly, the bill also outlines substantial increases to the Maryland Corps Program Fund over the next five years, raising the program's annual budgetary appropriation to \$20 million by fiscal year 2027.

Maryland Out of School Time Network

1500 Union Ave / Suite 2300
Baltimore MD 21211 / 410 374-7692
www.mostnetwork.org



These revisions to the Maryland Corps' recruitment policies and budgetary framework promise to substantially increase the program's effectiveness over the next five years. **Higher quality leadership, a diverse and well-compensated workforce, and a reliable program budget can only enhance the Corps ability to address poverty in the state.** The general assembly should support this bill to as a necessary measure to recruit from and support Maryland communities with the greatest need.

Ellie Mitchell
Director, Maryland Out of School Time Network
emitchell@mostnetwork.org
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Senate Bill 228 Support to B&T - MD Corp Revision

Uploaded by: Henry Bogdan

Position: FAV



marylandnonprofits.org

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February 9, 2022

Testimony on Senate Bill 228
Maryland Corps Program – Revisions
House Appropriations Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1300 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge your support of Senate Bill 228 to revise and fund the Maryland Corps Program.

The Maryland Corps Program was established by the General Assembly in 2016 to "provide meaningful service opportunities.... that will address the social needs of the community" through participating nonprofit organizations and government agencies and help "program participants develop the critical job skills necessary for creating a more equitable society as they serve their communities across the state, using the lens of environmental, social, and racial justice." Unfortunately, this essential program has yet to be implemented.

Senate Bill 228 will restructure the governance of the Maryland Corps program, enhance the benefits of participation, and provide mandated appropriations to support its operations. Under SB 228, the Board would also become an intermediary with the AmeriCorps program for organizations in Maryland, relieving them of much of the administrative burden of participation with AmeriCorps.

Maryland's nonprofit sector employs nearly 13% of state's non-governmental workforce and is a leading force for good, providing education and job training, stewarding our environmental, fostering small business and economic development, protecting public health and promoting Maryland's unique culture and the arts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have faced delays and cuts in government and philanthropic support and our members report struggling to maintain a talented workforce that provides essential community services at a living wage. Once implemented, the revised Maryland Corps Program would provide an essential workforce development opportunity to our sector and the state

We urge you to give Senate Bill 228 a favorable report.



CBT Testimony - SB 228.pdf

Uploaded by: Jana Davis

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 228 (Senate President Ferguson) – Written Testimony

Date: February 9, 2022

Position: SUPPORT

Submitted to: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Submitted by: Jana Davis, President, Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust) supports the expansion of Corps programs in Maryland as described in SB 228. The Trust was established by the General Assembly in 1985 and was tapped in 2010 by the General Assembly to administer the Chesapeake Conservation Corps, originally proposed by Senate President Mike Miller, who always remained close to the program. SB 228 calls for an expansion of a number of Corps programs and Corps activities, including the Chesapeake Conservation Corps.

Importance of Corps Programs

Corps programs accomplish two important goals in unique ways:

1) Individual growth and earning potential: Corps programs provide young people (and in many cases around the country, not-so-young people) an opportunity to be exposed to a new field and increase the chances for future employment, while supported during the term of service with a stipend to cover living expenses. Often, the types of young people who benefit most from Corps experiences may not otherwise have competed well for the types of positions they can ultimately get after Corps experience. In our Chesapeake Conservation Corps, one of our criteria for acceptance into the program is the likelihood that the individual learns, grows, and uses the experience to become eligible for later career opportunities they never would have otherwise had. Such an opportunity particularly benefits underserved populations, whose youth many not have had opportunities from which others benefit.

2) Community service: Corps programs facilitate in a cost-effective manner, at scale, the filling of community needs that otherwise would not be filled.



Background on the Chesapeake Conservation Corps

The Chesapeake Conservation Corps annually places 30-40 young people in year-long, stipend-supported terms of service at host not-for-profit entities across the region. The young people 1) work on a project to advance their Host Organizations' missions in the realms of infrastructure, watershed restoration, energy conservation, agriculture, and K-12 education (expanding their Host Organizations' capacity), 2) receive life and career skills training, and 3) learn to lead their own independent projects (including developing budgets and managing grants). Host Organizations include environmental and non-environmental entities (e.g., faith institutions, local governments, school systems, civic associations with social missions, etc.) alike.



Value of Expanding the Chesapeake Conservation Corps

The demand for the Chesapeake Conservation Corps far exceeds available resources: Each year we can support 35-40 member-host placements, but generally close to 100 prospective members apply and 70-80 not-for-profits organizations vie to serve as hosts for one or more members. The program is poised to easily and efficiently expand to offer more placements, and will do so via SB 228.

Expansion will proportionally increase the success of the program, both for the alumni members and the participating Host Organizations. In its first 12 years, over 300 alums have completed the program. About 30% of the Corps members are immediately hired by their Host Organizations or another host in the program, many into new jobs that were made possible by the expanded capacity driven by the Corps member's service. The other 70% brought their Corps experience with them to continuing education, positions elsewhere in the environmental field, or positions outside the environmental field. Over 200 organizations have served as Host Organizations, many of which expanded in size during this period and have filled their staffs with Corps alums.



About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Trust was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 1985 as a non-profit grant-making organization with a goal to increase stewardship and citizen engagement in the restoration of the state's local rivers, streams, parks, and other natural resources in diverse communities across the state, from the mountains of Western Maryland and the Youghiogheny watershed to the marshes of the Coastal Bays. The goal was to create an entity that could complement state agency work and reach large numbers of groups on the ground: schools, nonprofit organizations, faith-based institutions, homeowners associations, community and civic associations, and other types of groups.



The Trust invests in local communities and watersheds through grant programs and special initiatives and is known for its efficiency, putting on average 90 cents of every dollar into programs. The Trust has awarded over \$130 million through more than 12,000 grants and projects in every county in Maryland since 1985. We make 350-400 grants and other awards a year and have about 1,000 active grantees at any one time.

The Trust does not receive a direct state appropriation, and is instead supported through revenue from the Chesapeake Bay vehicle license plate; half of the Chesapeake and Endangered Species Fund checkoff on the state income tax form; two new donation options through Maryland's online boating, fishing, hunting license system, one that focuses on veterans' rehabilitation; partnerships with federal, state, local agencies, family foundations, and corporate foundations; and individual donors.

Due to its efficiency, the Trust has been rated with the maximum four-star rating by the nation's leading charity evaluator, Charity Navigator, for fourteen years, putting it in the top 1% of non-profits in the nation.

One of the Trust's basic tenets in its strategic plan is to engage under-engaged audiences in natural resources issues, and that theme characterizes the Chesapeake Conservation Corps. Every individual in our area benefits from healthy natural resources, and in turn, every individual can help natural resources. Three under-engaged audiences of particular focus identified by our Diversity and Inclusion Committee are the faith-based sector, communities of color, and the human health sector. The Trust has seen much success: The number of students, volunteers, and teachers of color engaged in our grants match the demographics of Maryland. Close to 10% of our grants supported work at faith-based institutions of 13 different religions.



Thank you very much for the opportunity to present to the Committee. If you should have any questions regarding the Trust's testimony, please contact us at 410-974-2941 x100 or jdavis@cbtrust.org.

SB228_USM_FAV_BOUGHMAN.pdf

Uploaded by: Joann Boughman

Position: FAV



BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

Senate Bill 228

Maryland Corps Program - Revisions

February 9, 2022

Joann Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Favorable Report

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 228. This legislation will expand access and success in higher education while strengthening Maryland's workforce and communities.

A service year through Maryland Corps will create a broader pipeline for participants moving from secondary education to colleges and universities or to employment with private corporations and nonprofit organizations throughout the region. Maryland Corps will also complement and take to scale existing investments in career and college readiness, such as The Choice Program at UMBC, which partners with the Department of Juvenile Services and currently works with 850 young people across the State who would be ideal candidates for service through Maryland Corps. Other university-based service programs that can be scaled span the state, from Appalachian Service Through Action and Resources at Frostburg University to Emerging Leaders Academy at University of Maryland Baltimore to ShoreCorps at Salisbury University to the Community Development Fellowship Program.

Salisbury University: [ShoreCorps](#) is the AmeriCorps program at Salisbury University, but members do not have to be students to serve. All members of the community are welcome to serve! ShoreCorps is a partnership with community-based organizations serving at-risk youth and other vulnerable populations.

Frostburg State University: [ASTAR](#) (Appalachian Service Through Action and Resources) is a Maryland AmeriCorps program. ASTAR provides direct, substantive services through our partnering programs in Maryland. AmeriCorps members provide direct service to build capacity within the agencies they serve.

The University of Baltimore: [The Community Development Fellowship Program](#) – housed in the Schaefer Center for Public Policy – gives dynamic, motivated students who have a strong interest in effecting positive change in urban areas the opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills and gain hands-on development experience. The students are matched with organizations that directly support Baltimore neighborhoods

The Maryland Corps offers a new pathway to colleges and universities for students who may not otherwise have the opportunity due to financial barriers or insufficient academic preparation. In addition to the financial support through the \$6,000 educational award, Maryland Corps service

will also provide opportunities for participants to develop professional, critical thinking, and leadership skills that will prepare them to arrive on campus ready to contribute to the campus community and more likely to succeed in their studies. Many Pell-eligible and first-generation students do not have the opportunity to pursue an internship and gain experience because it is unpaid. Simply put, many students can't afford to do service. Maryland Corps will fill this gap.

At a time when record numbers of workers are leaving jobs due to retirement and burnout, Maryland Corps promises a pipeline of fresh talent for roles in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors.

In addition to changing the life opportunities for young people, Maryland Corps allows higher education institutions to more intentionally and comprehensively integrate the values and principles of racial equity and inclusion into their community engagement and admissions work in several ways:

- Maryland Corps provides institutions an opportunity to break down barriers to enrollment by considering the value of experiences and skills developed through a service year. Ultimately, this strategy could keep more students in Maryland for their higher education.
- The regional focus of Maryland Corps creates synergies across higher education institutions throughout each region to build a network of purposeful, coordinated, and collective support for students and community-based partner organizations. This collaboration will strengthen each institution's role as an anchor institution for their local communities.
- Maryland Corps will also diversify and expand opportunities for higher education institutions' partnerships with community-based activities, including expanding partnerships with small, hyperlocal community-based and nonprofit organizations.
- Maryland Corps provides an opportunity for higher education institutions and communities to co-create service experiences and pathways to college and the workforce. This more authentic framework for community engagement supports the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement definition of partnership, specifically its foundational values of reciprocity and mutuality. Building these authentic partnerships could strengthen institutions' applications for the Community Engagement classification.

The USM urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 228.



About the University System of Maryland

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of 12 institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards 8 out of every 10 bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of 21 members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM’s 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country’s largest public online institution.

SB228_ Maryland LCV FAVORABLE - Maryland Corps Exp

Uploaded by: Kristen Harbeson

Position: FAV



February 9, 2022

Kim Coble
Executive Director

2021 Board of
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Thomas

SUPPORT: SB228 - Maryland Corps Expansion and Revisions

Chairman Guzzone, Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committees:

Maryland LCV strongly supports SB228 - Maryland Corps Expansion and Revisions and we thank President Ferguson for his leadership on this issue.

Maryland LCV works at the intersection of strong climate policy and environmental justice. This bill supports both of those interests.

SB228 and its House cross-file recognizes the unnecessary barriers to participation in the Maryland Corps funded programs, largely based on insufficient monetary stipends and benefits, and seeks to eliminate those barriers. In so doing, the bill opens opportunities for education and experience offered by Maryland Corps to those who would be otherwise unable to take place in these service years. These improvements to the program root this program in principles of equity and inclusion, ensuring workforce development and training in conservation careers for a greater number of Marylanders.

Additionally, this bill expands the opportunities under the Maryland Corps programs to direct participants to a much wider range of career opportunities, including in our state parks and Department of Natural Resources, as well as historic trades; professions which will be necessary as we build our states response to climate change in both the natural and built environments.

We encourage the sponsor and the Committees to look at additional ways to ensure that the principles of equity and justice are served in this bill, including worker protections and prioritizing recruitment of youth from communities of color.

Maryland LCV strongly urges a favorable report on this important bill.

SB228 - Maryland Corps Program - Revisions.Testimo

Uploaded by: Martha Nathanson

Position: FAV



CARE BRAVELY

SB228 – Maryland Corps Program - Revisions

Senate Budget & Taxation – February 9, 2022

Testimony of Martha D. Nathanson, Esq., Vice President, Government Relations and Community Development LifeBridge Health

Position: **SUPPORT**

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB228. LifeBridge Health is a regional health system comprising Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, an independent academic medical center; Levindale Geriatric Center and Hospital in Baltimore; Northwest Hospital, a community hospital in Baltimore County; Carroll Hospital, a sole community hospital in Carroll County, and; Grace Medical Center in Baltimore (formerly Bon Secours Hospital).

As the anchor institution in Northwest area of Baltimore City and County, we strongly support the intent of SB228 to build new pathways to service through scaling up service slots, including facilitating ways for large-scale employers to offer service year opportunities. In turn, these service opportunities can serve as pathways to employment throughout our communities, including at anchor institutions such as LifeBridge Health facilities. In addition, the program provides small community employers an opportunity to host participants, contributing to economic stability of these businesses and to economic growth of the communities they serve.

SB228 ensures that individuals who are currently unable to participate in existing programs, many of whom would benefit the most from taking part in a service year, can serve through Maryland Corps funded programs. Providing the equivalent of a \$15 an hour stipend, health insurance, and the potential for wraparound services such as childcare, transportation, housing, mental health service, financial literacy programming, and college and career application support will reduce barriers to entry for participants. A matching fund for large-scale employers will incentivize institutions like hospitals, universities, and other private sector employers to create service slots to meet growing workforce needs.

LifeBridge Health is a unique major healthcare institution in that it maintains a dedicated team solely focused on community development and social determinants of health, valuing educational outcomes, building a strong business environment, and creating workforce development opportunities as paths to better health and revitalization in the communities we serve. From our Skill Building programs such as Digital Literacy, Bridge to College and School at Work Program, our Job Training programs such as Central Sterile Processing, CNA, LPN to our Health Careers Academies in Randallstown and Pimlico, we actively build the workforce of the future, and the Maryland Corps goals dovetail with these types of efforts and support workforce development in our communities.

For all the above stated reasons, we request a **FAVORABLE** report for SB228.

Contact: Martha D. Nathanson, Esq.
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Development
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SB228 Testimony - Wolff, M. .pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Wolff

Position: FAV

POSITION: FAVORABLE

SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE
February 9, 2022
Senate Bill 228 - Maryland Corps Program - Revisions
Written Testimony Submitted By
Michele Wolff
Director, UMBC Shriver Center

As Director of The Shriver Center at UMBC, I am writing to express my support and enthusiasm for SB022. In my role, I oversee the coordination of a set of engagement initiatives with community organization partners, including Service-Learning & Community Engagement, the Shriver Peaceworker Program, Public Service Scholars Programs, and the Choice Program at UMBC. For more than 30 years, these initiatives have supported the Center's mission to address critical social challenges by bridging campus and community through engaged scholarship and applied learning and to lead meaningful social change through community partnerships.

Maryland Corps, as presented in SB0228, focuses on expanding college, career, and civic readiness opportunities for Maryland's young people. It also will expand opportunities for colleges and universities throughout our region to support the engagement of young people in a service year in partnership with community-based/nonprofit organizations, corporations, and government agencies that are already partnering with our campuses. Many higher education institutions already have a solid and effective community service and engagement infrastructure in place that can complement and support the Maryland Corps. For example, the Shriver Center serves as UMBC's community engagement hub, developing authentic partnerships with a variety of organizations and designing and implementing initiatives to meet community-identified needs, including removing barriers to service engagement. To meet these goals, the Shriver Center collaborates with more than 125 regional partners across public, private, and nonprofit sectors (including small, hyperlocal community-based organizations and large scale employers).

Service-focused centers can also remove financial barriers to ongoing service participation once Maryland Corps participants enroll at a campus. The Shriver Center, for example, has a system in place to provide stipends and scholarships to many students. This academic year, the Center will provide nearly \$100,000 to our Service-Learning & Community Engagement student leaders who coordinate partnerships with community-based organizations and schools and placements for students with these partners. Similarly, the Public Service Scholars Programs provide \$3,500 stipends to 55 students annually to support their experiences with nonprofit and state government agencies across our region.

Higher education institutions and associations such as the Baltimore Collegetown Network, Campus Compact Mid-Atlantic (CCMA), and the Shriver Center Higher Education Consortium at UMBC also offer extensive experience placing AmeriCorps VISTAs at colleges/universities to coordinate college, career, and civic readiness programs. These established initiatives have a deep understanding of service years, stipends, and education awards and could serve as a pathway from Maryland Corps to higher education

and the Maryland workforce. For example, participants who complete their Maryland Corps service year could become AmeriCorps members with Choice, enroll in Choice's courses at UMBC, and eventually become Choice staff members.

SB0228 strengthens the vision of Maryland Corps, expanding access to service by eliminating barriers and creating new pathways for young people to our workforce and our institutions of higher education. With existing infrastructure, systems, and a network of connections in place, colleges and universities in our region stand ready to support Maryland Corps. I encourage you to support SB228.

Michele Wolff
Director
The Shriver Center
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SB228-Preservation Maryland 2.8.22-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nicholas Redding

Position: FAV

Testimony of Nicholas A. Redding
President and CEO, Preservation Maryland

Before the
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 9, 2022
Pertaining To: SB228, Maryland Corps – Revisions
Support

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the value of history, preservation, and service in Maryland.

Preservation Maryland is the statewide voice for historic preservation that works to protect the best of Maryland. Since 1931, we have worked tirelessly to protect the places, stories and communities in Maryland that matter. Through our Campaign for Historic Trades, we have worked to increase opportunities for Americans to enter the preservation trades and help restore the nation's vast and irreplaceable heritage.

Why this Bill Matters

Across the nation, thousands of construction jobs go unfilled – a quiet crisis that grows each day. The problem is only magnified for the historic trades which also suffer from a lack of new entrants into the workforce. At the same time, from Garrett to Somerset County and everywhere in between, Maryland has a tremendous stock of historic structures, and it's a number that grows every year. To address the challenge of caring for our historic structures and a lack of qualified professionals to work on them, SB228 seeks, in addition to many other worthy goals, to support training the next generation of historic tradespeople who can help restore the state's historic built environment and who will be qualified to start a career in the well-paid field of historic preservation trades.

What this Bill Does

This legislation establishes and funds a quasi-public agency focused on bringing service opportunities across Maryland into the 21st century by removing barrier to entry so that those who stand to benefit most from service years can participate in the program and by building new pathways to service through scaling up service slots within existing organizations, incentivizing large-scale employers to offer service year opportunities, and

building opportunities within State and local government. This legislation also includes a provision requiring the new Corps to help jumpstart a Maryland Historic Trades Corps to support regionally based work crews of young adults and veterans tasked with the rehabilitation of Maryland's historic resources.

Why You Should Vote for This Bill

Maryland boasts a long and vibrant history. One of the benefits of that is a large stock of historic structures and buildings in every corner of our state. Indeed, Maryland has tens of thousands of structures which contribute to historic districts listed on National Register of Historic Places, a program of the National Department of the Interior and the National Parks Service, which recognizes districts, buildings, structures, objects, and sites for their significance in American history, archeology, architecture, engineering, or culture, and identifies them as worthy of preservation. Every day, more buildings in Maryland become eligible for the Register as they age and become part of our collective history. Buildings on the National Register of Historic Places require work done to the Secretary of Interior Standards for Historic Preservation. Therefore, specialized training is needed to ensure work complies with these standards.

As the historic building stock increases, there is a demand for more labor skilled and versed in historic preservation. Unfortunately, there is currently a documented and severe shortage of trained preservation tradespeople. SB228 would help address this crisis by investing in workforce training in the traditional trades through a Maryland Historic Trades Corps program. Participants would gain valuable experience on historic preservation projects in the state of Maryland, and at the conclusion of their experience would be abundantly qualified to enter the private sector, begin a job with the State of Maryland, or join one of Maryland's many trade unions to pursue a career in a variety of fields, including finish carpentry, frame carpentry, roofing, masonry and painting. There is a similarly focused federal program, the Traditional Trades Apprenticeship Program, which supports six months of paid, on-the-job instruction in one of America's national parks, plus post-training job placement services. The Maryland Historic Trades Corps would seek to replicate the federal program's success, while focusing on recruiting young adults and veterans to work on exclusively Maryland based historic resources.

As its stock of historic structures increases every year, Maryland will benefit from having a highly skilled workforce in historic rehabilitation. There are shortages in construction labor and higher shortages in skilled labor, and training supported by SB228 will help alleviate that challenge. Historic preservation of Maryland's already built environment is a widely embraced and successful solution to many of the economic and neighborhood

revitalization challenges facing Maryland's communities today. SB228 would help with this by supporting the job training of skilled preservation tradespeople to help in the revitalization movement through service in a corps model. Because of the volume of historic buildings in Maryland, and across the nation, preservation work is not niche; it's simply a facet of the broader construction industry.

The far-reaching impact of training in the traditional trades has been recognized by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources. In 2020, the ACHP convened a *Traditional Trades Training Task Force* which adopted a lengthy policy statement on the future of this field. In part, that policy statement explained that:

Traditional trades are critically important to preserving the heritage of our historic built environment for future generations. They also can translate into secure, well-paying jobs that help revitalize communities both physically and economically. Expanding training opportunities and networks in the traditional trades is essential, and to do so, we must make pathways into this important field more accessible to the American worker.

SB228 builds on the recommendations of the ACHP policy statement and invests in the future of Maryland's historic places, State Parks, and a new generation of traditional tradespeople. Without trained and talented hands – we simply will be unable to maintain our state's vast, varied, and irreplaceable heritage.

SB228 is an investment in Maryland's workforce and its heritage. Therefore, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB228.

Support

testimony_SB0228.pdf

Uploaded by: Ronald Stubblefield

Position: FAV

Ronald E. Stubblefield Esq., MS
10 N Calvert St, Apt 216, Baltimore, MD, 21202
(240)-461-2248 | rres499@nyu.edu

February 7, 2022
Subject: Senate Bill 0228—Maryland Corps Program Alterations
Stance: Support

Greetings,

My name is Ronald Stubblefield. I am a former Baltimore Corps Social Equity Fellow Alum. I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 0228.

My support of this Bill stems from my life's journey up to this point. Growing up in Montgomery County, MD, I was able to participate in many service learning projects, which enabled me to graduate with a Certificate of Meritorious Service from the State. These experiences shaped my academic journey, exposing me to various land conservancy projects, engineering projects, and community advocacy initiatives. The skills and perspectives I gained through these experiences guided my professional journey to serve as an economic development professional and thought leader within the Maryland Economic Development community and throughout the nation.

As I got older and worked throughout the country, I noticed how many students, especially from historically underestimated backgrounds due to income and race, were not able to have comparable experiences. I am an African-American man whose parents were middle class in an environment where service opportunities were both available and accessible to me. For my high school classmates, we didn't have to worry about anything but taking advantage of opportunities to make us more competitive for college admissions through public service. Outside this sheltered bubble, too many youth I have worked with in my career are unable to engage in service based programming because of issues such as housing and food insecurity necessitating they work in lieu of service, unreliable transportation making getting to these opportunities impracticable, lack of healthcare resources to ensure people are in the best possible position to gain from said opportunities, , to turning opportunities down because it is not structured in a way to support their educational goals. This listing is not meant to be dispositive. Rather it is to illustrate the point that the current system of public service for our youth is in fact inequitable and that correcting this inequity is not only the right thing to do morally, but it is a powerful education workforce development tool that builds a better and more inclusive Maryland while addressing achievement gaps that Dr. Ivory Toldson, whom the State heard from during the Kirwan process, notes it is critical to achieving educational equity.

Given this Bill works towards equity, increases civic engagement, and advances Maryland's economic development goals through increased educational and workforce competitiveness, supporting this Bill is easy

Please let me know if you have any additional questions on this topic.

Very Respectfully,

Ronald Stubblefield

SB 228 - National Aquarium - Maryland Corps- Senat

Uploaded by: Ryan Fredriksson

Position: FAV



Date: February 9, 2022

Bill: SB 228- Maryland Corps Program - Revisions

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report for **SB 228 Maryland Corps Program – Revisions**, which will remove inequitable barriers to entry facing potential participants, while creating new pathways for service and more effective public-private partnerships. Specifically, the bill would expand the Chesapeake Conservation Corps, a vital program which increases access to career opportunities around protecting and restoring ecosystem and community health throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed by placing participants with nonprofit or government agencies for a yearlong term of service.

The National Aquarium has been a proud host organization with the Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC) since 2011, hosting ten CCC participants to date. Each participant has made significant contributions to the Aquarium’s mission to inspire conservation, with impact across a variety of projects including hands-on field restoration throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, citizen science events, water quality and urban biodiversity studies, plastic/trash debris cleanup, and ongoing engagement with community members throughout Baltimore.

The Aquarium recognizes the value of a yearlong service position and offers unique, hands-on training for CCC participants to build their knowledge base and experience to advance their careers. Since becoming a CCC host organization, the National Aquarium has extended offers of full-time employment to six of the ten CCC participants, ultimately hiring five CCC alumni as staff after their term. As noted by one of our CCC participants who was on staff at the Aquarium for six years following their service year:

“My year in the [Chesapeake Conservation] Corps was a continual learning experience, and I am very grateful for all of the knowledge and professional development I gained throughout my term.” - National Aquarium CCC Participant

The Chesapeake Conservation Corps also promotes connection and collaboration among host organizations and agencies, decreasing administrative burden for host entities while leveraging perpetually limited staff capacity and other resources towards greater impact. Our CCC participants have interfaced with others in their cohort as well as staff at other nonprofit organizations and state and federal agencies that the National Aquarium works with. This bill would enhance such networks. Furthermore, additional funding could allow the Aquarium to offer additional CCC service slots by decreasing the cost burden on host organizations.

The National Aquarium supports this legislation because it helps to remove barriers to entry for participation in service programs, establishes sustainable funding mechanisms to better support host organizations, and expands service opportunities throughout the state. We look forward to the growth of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps program if this bill is passed. **We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 228.**

Contact:

Ryan Fredriksson

Vice President, Government Affairs

410-385-8276

rfredriksson@aquarium.org

Sarah Flammang Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Flammang

Position: FAV

Since before I can remember, my sister and I were expected to contribute to our community in meaningful ways. This ranged from collecting change for UNICEF at Halloween to packaging Thanksgiving baskets for a domestic violence shelter, to literacy tutoring for students who didn't have adequate resources in their schools. And so, I grew up with an appreciation for the fact that service is important, as many young people do.

But, I always thought service is something that you do in your spare time, as a volunteer. I never conceptualized the whole world of incredible careers that enable people to use their skills towards serving their communities. In fact, this was so much of a blind spot to me that I pursued a career in a scientific field, only to find (after several years and a great deal of education) that I was unfulfilled and I was not able to serve others the way I knew I wanted to.

It was not until I found a job with Baltimore Corps that I truly understood that service could be more than an extracurricular and I found synchrony with my passion and profession. I am now afforded the distinct pleasure of spending a majority of my waking hours working with people who all strive for a brighter future and stronger communities. In addition, I have grown my career, my leadership, and am proud of the work I do each and every day. Unfortunately, the work of nonprofits and government agencies is underappreciated and often cast in a patronizing light instead of spotlighting these careers. It shouldn't be so difficult to find these opportunities nor should access be restricted to paid service roles.

With early exposure to service and career pipelines in service, our young people can recognize this field as a viable career. With greater resources and accessibility dedicated to these opportunities, we can open the door for passionate, intelligent, and diverse individuals to serve their communities, build their skills, and chart a path for the future of national service. Through Maryland Corps, our state can be a leader in this field and craft a new way forward.

SBFerguson SB 228 - Maryland Corps B&T Testimony.p

Uploaded by: Senate President Bill Ferguson

Position: FAV



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

SB 228 – Maryland Corps Program – Revisions
Testimony of Senate President Bill Ferguson
On February 9, 2022
Before the Budget and Taxation Committee

Why This Bill Matters:

The fabric of our civic society has been fraying for years because we tend to silo ourselves in like-minded communities with others of similar backgrounds. Democracies thrive when a marketplace of ideas exists, and individuals communicate and work together across lines of difference.

Service is a powerful tool for bringing people together with a shared purpose and vision for what's possible. Individuals, regardless of political affiliation or background, generally believe in building a society where opportunity is foundational no matter one's circumstance. As a Teach for America alumni, I know from firsthand experience that service has the power to bring people together in a setting where learning from one another is integral to outcomes.

Background:

Originally created in 2016 by statute, Maryland Corps is meant to serve as the mechanism for expanding service year and national service opportunities in Maryland. The 2016 legislation ([HB1488](#)) set a framework for recruiting 100 young people to do a service year in Maryland through providing a \$15,000 per year stipend, as well as \$6,000 educational award. The Maryland Corps board has not been appointed yet and the Maryland Corps Program Fund has never been fully-funded as doing so was at the discretion of the Governor. A mandatory appropriation of \$150,000 was passed in 2020 ([SB845](#)), but was vetoed and will not be available until FY23.

Primary Objectives of SB 228:

1. Creating and funding a quasi-public agency focused on coordinating service opportunities in the State of Maryland that match 21st century needs of participants and communities.
2. Removing barriers to entry so those who would benefit most from service years have the ability to participate in the program.

3. Building new pathways to service through scaling up service slots with existing organizations, incentivizing large-scale employers to offer service year opportunities, and building opportunities within State and local government.

Overview of the Legislative Provisions:

Maryland Corps as a Quasi-Public Agency

The creation of a quasi-public agency is necessary to administer the Maryland Corps program as an intermediary with both the federal government and the private sector. This will allow the Maryland Corps Board, described below, to receive and leverage additional funding streams beyond the State general fund allocation. SB 228/HB 443 creates an instrumentality of the State with the following provisions:

1. Maryland Corps will be overseen by a seven member Board, including representatives of a current service organization, a current service corps member or recent alumni, and a representative of the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism.
2. The Board is empowered to adopt regulations regarding the administration of the Maryland Corps program including:
 - Selecting regional operating partners that understand the unique needs of different parts of the State;
 - Assessing additional opportunities to expand service in the State to address workforce development needs; and
 - Administering monetary stipends, health insurance, education awards, workforce development programming, and the potential for wraparound services;
 - Creating eligibility requirements for participating organizations broken into two categories:
 - Community employers (small, hyperlocal organizations); and
 - Large-scale employers (organizations with the capacity to quickly scale up service slots);
 - Prioritization will be given to large-scale employers that have a demonstrated capacity for transitioning participants to full-time employment after their service year;
 - A matching fund requirement may be included for large-scale employers to increase the number of service slots;
 - Evaluating potential service year programs for participation, as well as measuring participants' experiences; and
 - Determining the efficacy of the program over time.
3. A mandatory appropriation of \$5 million is created for FY 24, ramping up by an additional \$5 million per year until an annual appropriation of \$20 million per year is reached in FY 27.

- This gradual increase of funds will allow Maryland Corps to ramp up with an intentional approach, ensuring funds are not left unspent.
4. The Board can hire an executive director and staff to administer the program.
 5. Maryland Corps shall act as an intermediary with AmerCorps to secure federal funds and minimize the administrative burden placed on participating organizations.

Removing Barriers to Service

Many existing service programs create unintentional barriers to entry, largely based on providing insufficient monetary stipends and benefits. SB 222/HB 443 ensures that individuals who are currently unable to participate in existing programs, many of whom would benefit the most from taking part in a service year, have the ability to serve through Maryland Corps funded programs. The following provisions accomplish that objective:

1. Unnecessary requirements from the 2016 legislation for participating, including age and a recent graduation, are eliminated.
2. All service slots funded through Maryland Corps must receive the equivalent of a \$15 an hour stipend, health insurance, and the potential for wraparound services including (but not limited to):
 - Child care;
 - Transportation;
 - Housing;
 - Mental health services;
 - Financial literacy programming; and
 - College and career application support.
3. A \$6,000 education award is provided to participants that complete a nine month term of service through a tax-exempt Maryland 529 account.
 - This approach eliminates issues of unforeseen tax burdens created through similar programs, like the AmeriCorps education award.
4. Similarly, individuals who complete a service year through Maryland Corps also become automatically eligible for in-state tuition.
5. The Maryland Corps Board will work with regional operating partners to create an online portal of service opportunities throughout the State that allows interested individuals to find programs that fit their skills and interests.

Expanding Service Opportunities

Removing barriers to entry for participants is only one end of the equation. The other end is actually expanding service opportunities in every region of the State to meet each area's individual needs. SB 228/HB 443 provides a sustainable funding mechanism to do that with specific priorities, as outlined below:

1. By Maryland Corps acting as an intermediary with AmeriCorps, the administrative burden placed on hyperlocal organizations will be mitigated, thereby allowing them to access funding and create service slots.
2. A matching fund for large-scale employers will incentivize institutions like hospitals, universities, and other private sector employers to create service slots to meet growing workforce needs.
3. The Chesapeake Conservation Corps is already hugely successful and has the capacity to grow.
4. A Maryland Civilian Climate Corps can leverage federal funding allocated for that purpose and create pathways to employment with State and local governments in the Department of Natural Resources, or departments of parks and recreation.
5. A Maryland Historic Trades Corps can be scaled to place young adults and young veterans in regionally based work crews tasked with rehabilitation of Maryland's historic resources.

Why You Should Vote For This Bill:

Our best hope for creating a thriving civic infrastructure in Maryland, and across the country, is by drastically expanding opportunities for individuals to serve and learn together. Maryland has the potential to be a national leader in building a service ecosystem built for the 21st century.

Historically, service has excluded marginalized communities who literally could not afford to participate in a service year that provided a miniscule stipend and minimal support like housing, transportation, and workforce development training.

Maryland Corps is a State-level solution to expand on and run parallel to AmeriCorps, supplementing funding and expanding service slots in a way that is accessible to those who would benefit most from service years and education stipends.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 228 and I urge the committee to move this bill with a favorable report.

MAP - SB 228 - Maryland Corps - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Stacey Jefferson

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 228

Maryland Corps Program - Revisions

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

February 9, 2022

Submitted by Julia Gross and Kali Schumitz, Co-Chairs

Member Agencies:

211 Maryland

Advocates for Children and Youth

Baltimore Jewish Council

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Catholic Charities

Energy Advocates

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Family League of Baltimore

Fuel Fund of Maryland

Health Care for the Homeless

Homeless Persons

Representation Project

Job Opportunities Task Force

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,
Inc.

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Catholic Conference

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Maryland Community Action
Partnership

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Mental Health Association of
Maryland

Paul's Place

Public Justice Center

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore

Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

Julia Gross, Co-Chair

P: 410-528-0021x6029

E: jgross@mdhungersolutions.org

Kali Schumitz, Co-Chair

P: 410-412- 9105 ext 701

E: kschumitz@mdeconomy.org

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) supports SB 228, which revises and strengthens the Maryland Corps Program.

Year-of-service programs are common way non-profits engage young adults in social service careers, and strengthening the Maryland Corps program creates more opportunities for placements. Many MAP members ourselves are alumni of year-of-service programs, and embarked on careers in service because of our experiences in various year-of-service programs, like Americorps. These programs offer an opportunity for young adults to explore community-oriented and service-oriented career pathways. However, for the past few years, many year-of-service programs have seen a drop in enrollment due to rising student loan debt, rising costs of housing, and lack of financial incentives and supports offered in year-of-service programs.

The supports proposed by SB 228 – including offering a minimum wage of \$15/hr, health insurance, and wraparound services – would increase opportunities for nonprofits to host year-of-service corps members. Several MAP organizations have traditionally hosted year-of-service members, and we are excited about the possibilities this new Maryland Corps revamp could bring, especially in allowing individuals from various socio-economic background to participate. In particular, the education award and in-state tuition are critically important incentives for corps members. Additionally, we support the added language to promote environmental, social, and racial justice through the program, and the goal to create strong bonds between cohort Corps members. Research demonstrates that year-of-service program positively impact communities and participants by strengthening civic engagement, equity, and connection to community.¹ Consequently, the changes proposed in SB 228 make serving for a year in Maryland Corps not only meaningful, but also provide the supports necessary for participants to build strong careers with livable wages and benefits.

MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 228.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.

¹ Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. 2009. Inside National Service: AmeriCorps' Impact on Participants. Vol 28, Issue 3.

File for MGA.pdf

Uploaded by: Alana Plotnick

Position: FWA

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering this testimony. I urge you to vote favorably for SB0228 - Maryland Corps - Revisions with additional amendments.

This bill revises the Maryland Corps program to create a Civilian Climate Corps for Maryland, among other changes.

A progressive Civilian Climate Corps should fund and attract funding for *good jobs* with a minimum wage of \$15 per hour, the right to organize for collective bargaining, health insurance and wraparound services. It should also identify the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice.

I am a junior in high school and I am very concerned about the state of the climate that is being left to my generation. Our world climate is in decline and we must take action. This bill is a step in the right direction provided it has the following amendments.

SB0228 sets a decent standard for the *good jobs* criteria, providing a \$15 minimum wage, health insurance, and wraparound services. However, it does not identify the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice. Instead, it only suggests that this program will cover staffing shortages in parks. This language should be altered to explicitly include “clean energy projects and climate justice projects.”

There is another bill this session, proposed by Senator Pinsky, Chairman of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs committee, Climate Solutions Now Act, that has the opposite problem - it identifies the *right projects* for a Civilian Climate Corps but does not deliver on providing *good jobs* - which this bill does

We encourage the Committee Chair and Senate President to work closely with Senator Pinsky, whose Climate Solutions Now Act fails to identify the right projects for a Civilian Climate Corps but does not deliver on providing good jobs, to unite the best aspects of these two bills to ensure that the version of the Civilian Climate Corps that passes this session creates both *good jobs* and the *right projects*.

Several options are available: (1) language from the Climate Solutions Now Act concerning the right projects could be incorporated into this bill, (2) the standards for wages and benefits from this bill could be incorporated into the Climate Solutions Now Act, or, as I urge, each bill should include both elements. I believe that working together to either merge the bills or create two programs that both create good jobs in the right projects will result in a beneficial Climate Corps in Maryland, so long as both criteria are met in any bill intended to serve as a Climate Corps.

I also suggest three further amendments. The bill should guarantee the right for corps members to organize for collective bargaining and to strike. Second, it should include political organizing rights outside of working hours. Finally, the bill should make any Climate Corps program open to all ages, but prioritize hiring of young people, historically marginalized, and working class groups.

Thank you for considering this.

Sincerely,

Alana Plotnick

Alex Norbrook SB 0228 Maryland Corps Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Alex Norbrook

Position: FWA

Committee: Budget and Taxation
Testimony on: SB0228 Maryland Corps - Revisions
Organization: Sunrise Movement Baltimore
Submitting: Alex Norbrook
Position: Favorable with Amendments
Hearing Date: February 9th

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering this testimony. I urge you to vote favorably for SB0228 - Maryland Corps - Revisions with additional amendments.

This bill revises the Maryland Corps program to create a Civilian Climate Corps for Maryland, among other changes.

A progressive Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) should fund and attract funding for *good* jobs with a minimum wage of \$15 per hour, the right to organize for collective bargaining, health insurance and wraparound services. It should also identify the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice.

I am a high school senior at the Park School of Baltimore. As a high schooler, I believe a strong CCC that funds *green jobs* is absolutely essential to bringing about a green future. Climate change terrifies me, and I see a CCC which prioritizes green jobs as a way for me to do something tangible to stop the worst effects of the crisis. In the future, I hope that when I enter the workforce, Maryland will offer a robust green jobs program. I see the following amendments to SB 0228 as a path to that future.

SB0228 sets a decent standard for the *good jobs* criteria, providing a \$15 minimum wage, health insurance, and wraparound services. However it does not identify the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice. Instead, it only suggests that this program will cover staffing shortages in parks. This language should be altered to explicitly include “clean energy projects and climate justice projects.”

There is another bill this session, proposed by Senator Pinsky, Chairman of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs committee, Climate Solutions Now Act, that has the opposite problem - it identifies the *right projects* for a Civilian Climate Corps but does not deliver on providing *good jobs* - which this bill does

I encourage the Committee Chair and Senate President to work closely with Senator Pinsky, whose Climate Solutions Now Act fails to identify the right projects for a Civilian Climate Corps but does not deliver on providing good jobs, to unite the best aspects of these two bills to ensure that the version of the Civilian Climate Corps that passes this session creates both *good jobs* and the *right projects*.

Several options are available: (1) language from the Climate Solutions Now Act concerning the right projects could be incorporated into this bill, (2) the standards for wages and benefits from this bill could be incorporated into the Climate Solutions Now Act, or, as I urge, each bill should include both elements. I believe that working together to either merge the bills or create two programs that both create good jobs in the right projects will result in a beneficial Climate Corps in Maryland, so long as both criteria are met in any bill intended to serve as a Climate Corps.

I also suggest three further amendments. The bill should guarantee the right for corps members to organize for collective bargaining and to strike. Second, it should include political organizing rights outside of working hours. Finally, the bill should make any Climate Corps program open to all ages, but prioritize hiring of young people, historically marginalized, and working class groups.

I urge you to strengthen SB0228, the Maryland Corps, in this way.

Sincerely,

Alex Norbrook

2022_SB0228_testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrew Hinz

Position: FWA

**Testimony of Andrew Hinz for
SB0228 – Maryland Corps - Revisions**

Budget and Taxation Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please vote favorably.

I fully support the testimony provide by the Sunrise Movement Baltimore thru Stephen Leas AND their proposed amendments.

I am a retired civil servant and am extremely active in advocating for immediate and just action to mitigate our worsening climate emergency, working with several grass roots organizations at the local, state, and federal level.

We have a health crisis in this country that is linked to the climate emergency. I work with young people in my climate activism—but you might ask your own children or young people with whom you are close. I lost a 29 year old child to fentanyl in 2017. I have no doubt the climate emergency was one of several factors contributing to the mental illness with which my child struggled.

Can we please take immediate action to stop failing our youth and our very future? This bill provides direct climate emergency mitigation, mental health, and energy justice *investments* that will result in immeasurable present and future benefit.

Again, thank you.

February 7, 2022

Andrew Hinz

1427 Park Avenue

Baltimore, Maryland 21217

SB0228_Maryland_Corps_MLC_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FWA



TESTIMONY FOR SB0228 MARYLAND CORPS - REVISIONS

Bill Sponsor: Senator Ferguson

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0228 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill revises the Maryland Corps program to engage students in their local communities and provide experience in environmental projects and programs. The expansion of this program will have great benefit for the youth of our state and show how committed the state is to supporting and preserving our environment. The program provides good jobs at a \$15 minimum wage, includes health insurance, and wraparound services.

However, it does not identify the right projects in green energy and climate justice. Instead, it limits the program to cover parks staffing shortages. The Maryland Legislative Coalition respectfully suggests that this is such an amazing and transformative program that the projects covered by the program should be expanded to explicitly include "Clean energy projects and Climate Justice Projects."

We are also aware that the Climate Solutions Now Act contains provisions for a Civilian Climate Corps that contains the expansive definition of projects we feel is necessary, but does not deliver on providing good jobs - which this bill does.

We encourage the Committee Chair and Senate President to work closely with Senator Pinsky to synergize the best aspects of these two bills to ensure that the version of the Civilian Climate Corps that passes this session creates the jobs benefits that are in this bill and allows for a much more expansive definition of projects, as in the Climate Solutions Now bill.

We also suggest some additions to this bill to guarantee the right for corps members to organize for collective bargaining and strike. Additionally, corps members should be allowed to organize politically outside of working hours. We feel that it is important to guarantee that the new wave of green collar jobs are good jobs, and the way to ensure they will stay that way is by empowering green collar workers through civic rights such as collective bargaining and political organizing.

Finally, we suggest making any Climate Corps program open to all ages, prioritizing young people, historically marginalized, and working-class groups in hiring.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in Committee.

Hafiz, D Maryland Corps Testimony Sample.pdf

Uploaded by: Deven Hafiz

Position: FWA

Committee: Budget and Taxation
Testimony on: SB0228 Maryland Corps - Revisions
Organization: Park School of Baltimore
Submitting: Deven Hafiz
Position: Favorable with Amendments
Hearing Date: February 9th

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering our testimony. I am a high school student at the Park School of Baltimore and there has not been a time in my life where climate change has not been an existential reality. I hope both my children and I are able to live productive lives in a world where not only do we have access to nature but basic human rights such as water. But even more, it *must* not be available to the privileged few, but to everyone. And that starts today, at home, in Maryland. This is a tangible and essential piece of the larger effort. I strongly urge you to vote favorably for SB0228 - Maryland Corps - Revisions with additional amendments, and thank you for your commitment to the continual welfare of your constituents.

This bill revises the Maryland Corps program to create a Civilian Climate Corps for Maryland, among other changes. Many have been fighting for the Civilian Climate Corps and successfully organized for its incorporation into the Build Back Better Act. However, as federal efforts appear uncertain, it is even more important that states like ours establish the most ambitious and progressive Civilian Climate Corps to become undisputed leaders in fighting the existential crisis of our generation.

Additionally, a progressive Civilian Climate Corps should fund and attract funding for *good jobs* with a minimum wage of \$15 per hour, the right to organize for collective bargaining, health insurance and wraparound services. It should also identify] the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice.

This bill sets a decent standard for the *good jobs* criteria, providing a \$15 minimum wage, health insurance, and wraparound services. However it does not identify the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice. Instead it only suggests that this program will cover parks staffing shortages. This language should be altered to explicitly include “Clean energy projects and Climate Justice Projects.”

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problem - it identifies the *right projects* for a Civilian Climate Corps but does not deliver on providing *good jobs* - which this bill does

We encourage the Committee Chair and Senate President to work closely with Senator Pinsky to unite the best aspects of these two bills to ensure that the version of the Civilian Climate Corps that passes this session creates both *good jobs* and the *right projects*.

Several options are available: (1) language from Climate Solutions Now Act concerning the right projects could be incorporated into this bill, (2) the standards for wages and benefits from this bill could be incorporated into the Climate Solutions Now Act, or, as I urge, each bill should include both elements. I believe that working together to either merge the bills or creating two programs that both create good jobs in the right projects will result in a beneficial Climate Corps in Maryland, so long as both criteria are met in any bill intended to serve as a Climate Corps.

I also suggest three further amendments. The bill should guarantee the right for corps members to organize for collective bargaining and to strike. Second, it should include political organizing rights outside of working hours. We must guarantee that the new wave of green collar jobs are good jobs, and the way to ensure they will stay that way is by empowering green collar workers through basic rights of labor such as collective bargaining and political organizing.

Finally, the bill should make any Climate Corps program open to all ages, but prioritize hiring of young people, historically marginalized, and working class groups.

We encourage a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** Report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,
Deven Hafiz

SB228-Maryland Corps -CJW-B&T-FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Diana Younts

Position: FWA



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Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB0228 Maryland Corps - Revisions

Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Hearing Date: February 9, 2022

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering our testimony. The MLC Climate Justice Wing is a statewide coalition of grassroots and professional organizations who advocate for climate justice. We urge you to vote favorably for SB0228 - Maryland Corps - Revisions with additional amendments

This bill revises the Maryland Corps program to create a Civilian Climate Corps for Maryland, among other changes. It is important that states like ours establish the most ambitious and progressive Civilian Climate Corps to become undisputed leaders in fighting the climate crisis.

The idea of a Civilian Climate Corps is inspired by New Deal era programs to employ millions of people to help rebuild the country after the Great Depression. The Civilian Climate Corps would similarly create good jobs, but it would fund projects that mitigate the climate crisis. A Civilian Climate Corps would also account for the failures of the New Deal era by ensuring that not only white men benefit from new jobs and projects, but black and brown, low income, women, lgbtqa and youth as well.

Additionally, a progressive Civilian Climate Corps should fund and attract funding for *good jobs* with a minimum wage of \$15 per hour, the right to organize for collective bargaining, health insurance and wraparound services. It should also do the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice projects.

This bill sets a decent standard for the *good jobs* criteria, providing a \$15 minimum wage, health insurance, and wraparound services. However it does not identify the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice. Instead it only suggests that this program will cover parks staffing shortages. This language should be altered to explicitly include “Clean energy projects and Climate Justice Projects.”

There is another bill this session, proposed by Senator Pinsky, Chairman of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs committee, the Climate Solutions Now Act, that identifies the right projects – but does not yet have provisions for providing good jobs – which this bill does.

We encourage the Committee Chair and Senate President to work closely with Senator Pinsky to synergize the best aspects of these two bills to ensure that the version of the Civilian Climate Corps that passes this session creates both *good jobs* and the *right projects*.

We believe that working together to either merge the bills or creating two programs that both create good jobs in the right projects will result in a beneficial Climate Corps in Maryland, so long as both criteria are met.

We also agree with the Sunrise Movement's suggested amendments to guarantee the right for corps members to organize for collective bargaining and strike and to have political organizing rights outside of working hours. We must guarantee that the new wave of green collar jobs are good jobs, and the way to ensure they will stay that way is by empowering green collar workers through civic rights such as collective bargaining and political organizing.

Additionally, we agree with Sunrise's remaining proposed amendment to make any Climate Corps program open to all ages, but to prioritize young people, historically marginalized, and working class groups in hiring.

We encourage a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS Report for this important legislation.

Sunrise Maryland testimony - Maryland Corps- Revis

Uploaded by: Gracie Chaney

Position: FWA



Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB0228 Maryland Corps - Revisions

Organization: Sunrise Movement Baltimore

Submitting: Gracie Chaney

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Hearing Date: February 9th

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering our testimony. Sunrise Movement is a movement led by young people fighting the climate crisis. We urge you to vote favorably for SB0228 - Maryland Corps - Revisions with additional amendments

This bill revises the Maryland Corps program to create a Civilian Climate Corps for Maryland, among other changes. Sunrisers have been fighting for the Civilian Climate Corps and successfully organized for its incorporation into the Build Back Better Act. However, as federal efforts appear uncertain, it is even more important that states like ours establish the most ambitious and progressive Civilian Climate Corps to become undisputed leaders in fighting the existential crisis of our generation.

Some folks may need a primer in what a Civilian Climate Corps actually is. The idea is inspired by New Deal era programs to employ millions of people to help rebuild the country after the Great Depression.. The Civilian Climate Corps would similarly create good jobs, but it would fund projects that mitigate the climate crisis. A Civilian Climate Corps would also account for the failures of the New Deal era by ensuring that not only white men benefit from new jobs and projects, but black and brown, low income, women, lgbtqa and youth as well.

Additionally, a progressive Civilian Climate Corps should fund and attract funding for *good* jobs with a minimum wage of \$15 per hour, the right to organize for collective bargaining, health



insurance and wraparound services. It should also identify] the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice.

This bill sets a decent standard for the *good jobs* criteria, providing a \$15 minimum wage, health insurance, and wraparound services. However it does not identify the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice. Instead it only suggests that this program will cover parks staffing shortages. This language should be altered to explicitly include “Clean energy projects and Climate Justice Projects.”

There is another bill this session, proposed by Senator Pinsky, Chairman of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs committee, Climate Solutions Now Act, that has the opposite problem - it identifies the *right projects* for a Civilian Climate Corps but does not deliver on providing *good jobs* - which this bill does

We encourage the Committee Chair and Senate President to work closely with Senator Pinsky to unite the best aspects of these two bills to ensure that the version of the Civilian Climate Corps that passes this session creates both *good jobs* and the *right projects*.

Several options are available: (1) language from Climate Solutions Now Act concerning the right projects could be incorporated into this bill, (2) the standards for wages and benefits from this bill could be incorporated into the Climate Solutions Now Act, or, as we urge, each bill should include both elements. We believe that working together to either merge the bills or creating two programs that both create good jobs in the right projects will result in a beneficial Climate Corps in Maryland, so long as both criteria are met in any bill intended to serve as a Climate Corps.

We also suggest three further amendments. The bill should guarantee the right for corps members to organize for collective bargaining and to strike. Second, it should include political organizing rights outside of working hours. We must guarantee that the new wave of green collar jobs are good jobs, and the way to ensure they will stay that way is by empowering green



collar workers through basic rights of labor such as collective bargaining and political organizing.

Finally, the bill should make any Climate Corps program open to all ages, but prioritize hiring of young people, historically marginalized, and working class groups.

We encourage a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS Report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Submitted by **Gracie Chaney**
2813 Sam's Creek Rd
New Windsor MD, 21776

Sunrise Movement Maryland
Sunrise Baltimore
Sunrise Howard County
Sunrise UMD
Sunrise Silver Spring
Sunrise UMBC
Sunrise McDaniel
Sunrise Frederick

Maryland Legislative Coalition
Justice Republicans
Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry
Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America
Our Revolution Maryland
Climate Parents of Prince George's

Policy Foundation of Maryland, Voices Maryland
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
Global Youth for Climate Action
White Oak Tenants Coalition
ACQ Consulting
WISE
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Clean Water Action
Our Revolution, Howard County, MD
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
American Youth for Climate Action

SB0228 - Maryland Corps Revisions - Testimony - CI

Uploaded by: Joseph Jakuta

Position: FWA

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB 228 - "Maryland Corps - Revisions"

Organization: Climate Parents of Prince George's

Person Submitting: Joseph Jakuta, Lead Volunteer

Position: Favorable, with Amendments

Hearing Date: February 9, 2022



Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of SB 228 - "Maryland Corps - Revisions." Climate Parents is a campaign to reduce climate change causing pollution in our schools and our group is active in Prince George's County. In particular, we are currently working directly with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) technical staff and other advocates to develop a Climate Action Plan for PGCPS

This bill revises the Maryland Corps program to create a Civilian Climate Corp (CCC) for Maryland, among other changes. Creation of a Maryland CCC is crucial for our future environment, especially given the current stagnation of the Build Back Better Act which would create such a program nationally.

Working on our campaign to achieve Clean Energy Schools at PGCPS we have worked with many talented students that are passionate about creating a liveable future. Whether it is students that participate in Green Teams or other environmental clubs that come from a variety of educational interests, but are working to self start environmental projects like onsite composting and native gardening at their campuses. Or whether it is students in Career Technical Education (CTE) programs that are learning the hard skills needed for future clean energy jobs. Or even the young people in student government that are serving along with staff and experts to write a Climate Action Plan for PGCPS.

These students want to serve and they want a liveable, healthful planet. Creating a CCC would allow them the opportunity to do that in and for Maryland in their early working years. And it would allow these youth to work together and understand Marylanders from different backgrounds across the state and to foster a sense of pride in Maryland while working to benefit the environment for future generations of Marylanders.

We are encouraged that this bill will allow these types of students to serve in the future at a reasonable wage and we encourage that to be maintained. The Education Health and Environmental Affairs committee is currently reviewing SB 528 - "Climate Solutions Now Act," which also implements a CCC, but does not have such requirements. However, SB 228 is limited in the types of jobs available, especially for young persons that want to serve that come from a CTE program and have the hard skills to do energy retrofits, install solar panels, or conduct other necessary technical work. SB 528 allows for more potential areas of work and we should not limit the opportunity of young people with a CTE background to best serve their community too.

We encourage Chair Guzzone to work closely with Senator Pinsky to unite the best aspects of these two bills to ensure that the version of the CCC that passes this session creates both well paying opportunities and allows participants to perform the many tasks ahead for the climate. We believe that working together to merge the bills will result in a beneficial CCC program in Maryland, so long as both criteria are met in any bill intended to create a Maryland Climate Conservation Corp.

We encourage a **FAVORABLE** report with **AMENDMENT** for this important legislation.

SB228_MDSierraClub_fwa - 9Feb2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Josh Tulkin

Position: FWA



P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB 228 - "Maryland Corps Program - Revisions"

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Hearing Date: February 9, 2022

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club encourages support for SB 228 with amendment. The bill makes a variety of useful revisions to the Maryland Corps Program, including creating a Maryland Civilian Climate Corps and directing that funding for the Program be provided in the Governor's budget through 2027 and beyond. These changes are designed to help promote workforce development and opportunities throughout Maryland using a lens of environmental, social, and racial justice.

As the Committee considers the bill, we encourage it to clarify that the Climate Corps may support greenhouse gas reduction and climate change mitigation activities, including clean energy and energy savings actions that will reduce greenhouse gases as well as resiliency investments that will benefit Maryland's communities. This clarification would provide useful job training opportunities with important benefits to participants and their communities and make clear that the qualifying activities are broader than support of parks staffing, which is also a meritorious activity. With such adjustments the bill would align well with the workforce development and climate equity objectives of the Climate Solutions Now Act (SB 528) which is also currently under consideration by the Senate.

In summary, this bill provides useful revisions, expansions, and funding to the Maryland Corps Program. We urge this Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 228 with an appropriate clarification that helps ensure that the Maryland Civilian Climate Corps can achieve its full potential.

Randy Lyon
Legislative Chair
Randy.Lyon@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

Copy of Maryland Corps Testimony Sample.pdf

Uploaded by: Julia Levin

Position: FWA

Committee: Budget and Taxation
Testimony on: SB0228 Maryland Corps - Revisions
Submitting: Julia Levin
Position: Favorable with Amendments
Hearing Date: February 9th

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering our testimony. We urge you to vote favorably for SB0228 - Maryland Corps - Revisions with additional amendments

Some folks may need a primer in what a Civilian Climate Corps actually is. The idea is inspired by New Deal era programs to employ millions of people to help rebuild the country after the Great Depression.. The Civilian Climate Corps would similarly create good jobs, but it would fund projects that mitigate the climate crisis. A Civilian Climate Corps would also account for the failures of the New Deal era by ensuring that not only white men benefit from new jobs and projects, but black and brown, low income, women, lgbtqa and youth as well.

Additionally, a progressive Civilian Climate Corps should fund and attract funding for *good jobs* with a minimum wage of \$15 per hour, the right to organize for collective bargaining, health insurance and wraparound services. It should also identify] the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice.

This bill sets a decent standard for the *good jobs* criteria, providing a \$15 minimum wage, health insurance, and wraparound services. However it does not identify the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice. Instead it only suggests that this program will cover parks staffing shortages. This language should be altered to explicitly include “Clean energy projects and Climate Justice Projects.”

There is another bill this session, proposed by Senator Pinsky, Chairman of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs committee, Climate Solutions Now Act, that has the opposite problem - it identifies the *right projects* for a Civilian Climate Corps but does not deliver on providing *good jobs* - which this bill does

We encourage the Committee Chair and Senate President to work closely with Senator Pinsky to unite the best aspects of these two bills to ensure that the version of the Civilian Climate Corps that passes this session creates both *good jobs* and the *right projects*.

Several options are available: (1) language from Climate Solutions Now Act concerning the right projects could be incorporated into this bill, (2) the standards for wages and benefits from this bill could be incorporated into the Climate Solutions Now Act, or, as we urge, each bill should include both elements. We believe that working together to either merge the bills or creating two programs that both create good jobs in the right projects will result in a beneficial Climate Corps in Maryland, so long as both criteria are met in any bill intended to serve as a Climate Corps.

We also suggest three further amendments. The bill should guarantee the right for corps members to organize for collective bargaining and to strike. Second, it should include political organizing rights outside of working hours. We must guarantee that the new wave of green collar jobs are good jobs, and the way to ensure they will stay that way is by empowering green collar workers through basic rights of labor such as collective bargaining and political organizing.

Finally, the bill should make any Climate Corps program open to all ages, but prioritize hiring of young people, historically marginalized, and working class groups.

We encourage a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** Report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Julia Levin

MD Civilian Climate Corps 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: nanci Wilkinson

Position: FWA

MD Civilian Climate Corps 2022

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB0228 Maryland Corps - Revisions

Organization: Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Submitting: Nanci Wilkinson

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Hearing Date: February 9th

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

The Environmental Justice Ministry of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church supports the following letter in full from the Sun Rise Movement and urges the Committee to vote favorably for SB0228-Maryland Corps-Revisions with additional amendments. The Civilian Climate Corps for Maryland would support our faith's covenant affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person by helping others face the Climate emergency.

This bill revises the Maryland Corps program to create a Civilian Climate Corps for Maryland, among other changes. Sunrisers have been fighting for the Civilian Climate Corps and successfully organized for its incorporation into the Build Back Better Act. However, as federal efforts appear uncertain, it is even more important that states like ours establish the most ambitious and progressive Civilian Climate Corps to become undisputed leaders in fighting the existential crisis of our generation.

Some folks may need a primer in what a Civilian Climate Corps actually is. The idea is inspired by New Deal era programs to employ millions of people to help rebuild the country after the Great Depression.. The Civilian Climate Corps would similarly create good jobs, but it would fund projects that mitigate the climate crisis. A Civilian Climate Corps would also account for the failures of the New Deal era by ensuring that not only white men benefit from new jobs and projects, but black and brown, low income, women, lgbtqa and youth as well.

Additionally, a progressive Civilian Climate Corps should fund and attract funding for *good jobs* with a minimum wage of \$15 per hour, the right to organize for collective bargaining, health insurance and wraparound services. It should also the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice projects.

This bill sets a decent standard for the *good jobs* criteria, providing a \$15 minimum wage, health insurance, and wraparound services. However it does not identify the *right projects* in green energy and climate justice. Instead it only suggests that this program will cover parks staffing shortages. This language should be altered to explicitly include "Clean energy projects and Climate Justice Projects."

There is another bill this session, proposed by Senator Pinsky, Chairman of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs committee, Climate Solutions Now Act, that has the opposite

problem - it identifies the *right projects* for a Civilian Climate Corps but does not deliver on providing *good jobs* - which this bill does

We encourage the Committee Chair and Senate President to work closely with Senator Pinsky to synergize the best aspects of these two bills to ensure that the version of the Civilian Climate Corps that passes this session creates both *good jobs* and the *right projects*.

Language from Climate Solutions Now Act concerning the right projects could be incorporated into this bill or vice versa: the standards for wages and benefits from this bill could be incorporated into that bill, or both. We believe that working together to either merge the bills or creating two programs that both create good jobs in the right projects will result in a beneficial Climate Corps in Maryland, so long as both criteria are met.

We also have suggested amendments that do not appear in either version of the Climate Corps. One is to guarantee the right for corps members to organize for collective bargaining and strike. Another is for political organizing rights outside of working hours. We must guarantee that the new wave of green collar jobs are good jobs, and the way to ensure they will stay that way is by empowering green collar workers through civic rights such as collective bargaining and political organizing.

Another amendment we suggest is to make any Climate Corps program open to all ages, but to prioritize young people, historically marginalized, and working class groups in hiring.

We encourage a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS Report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,
Nanci Wilkinson
Environmental Justice Ministry
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

SB228_IndivisibleHoCoMD_FWA_RichardDeutschmann.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard Deutschmann

Position: FWA



SB228 – Maryland Corps Program - Revisions

Testimony before

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

February 9, 2022

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB228 with Amendments**, to make changes to the existing Maryland Corps program, and establish a Civilian Climate Corps focused more on green jobs and justice. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Senate President Ferguson for sponsoring this important legislation.

This bill makes some important changes to the Maryland Corps program, creating a new, Civilian Climate Corps that is focused on good paying jobs for our youth and underemployed residents, adding an educational component, clarifying wraparound services to be included, and providing some positive direction to the types of projects that will be part of the Corps. We especially love the goal of “creating a strong annual cohort bond of unity for the program participants from urban, rural and suburban areas of the state”, as a foundation that is desperately needed in this era of division.

However, we understand from our allies at the Sunrise Movement (who has been at the core of this central tenant of the Green New Deal movement) that there is more that is needed in this bill. We would refer you to their testimony. Some of the items that Sunrise would like to see amended onto this bill include –

1. Additional language to further focus this program specifically on climate change
2. Guaranteeing the right for participants to collectively organize, and to be able to politically organize outside of work hours
3. Better coordination with Chairman Pinsky’s Climate Solutions Now bill, to identify clean energy jobs and climate justice projects.

For these reasons, we support the goals of SB228, as a huge step in the right direction for the Maryland Corps program. And we urge the committee to amend this bill to strengthen the language and provide further focus to ensure that we are mobilizing the Corps to truly fight climate change and build resiliency in our most at-risk communities. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report with Amendments.

Richard Deutschmann
Columbia, MD 21045

SB 228 MD Corps Program (Ferguson) B&T 2.9.22 SOI.

Uploaded by: Barbara Wilkins

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 228 Maryland Corps Program - Revisions (Ferguson)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 9, 2022

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation and Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 228 reconstitutes the seven-member Board of Directors on Sept 1, 2022 and makes it an instrumentality of the State; creates an Executive Director and staff who are employees of the State; expands the scope of the Program to provide training and support services for program participants; utilizes the Board as an intermediary with the AmeriCorps Program to secure federal funding and focus on expanding the service opportunities in state and local parks and in the public health sector; and mandates annual appropriations in the amounts of \$5 million in FY 2024; \$10 million in FY 2025; \$15 million in FY 2026; and \$20 million in FY 2027 and in each fiscal year thereafter. The mandated appropriation is in addition to any federal funding for State service or volunteer programming.

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the aggregate \$50 million mandated appropriation (FY 2024 - FY 2027) that impacts the FY 2024 and all subsequent budgets. The FY 2023 Budget includes the first year of the \$150,000 annual mandated appropriation for the Maryland Corps Program.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which will require spending allocations for FY 2024 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2022.

Changes to the Maryland Constitution in 2020 provide the General Assembly with additional budgetary authority, beginning in the 2023 Session, to realign total spending by increasing and adding items to appropriations in the budget submitted by the Governor. The legislature's new budgetary power diminishes, if not negates, the need for mandated appropriation bills.

Fully funding the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan) will require fiscal discipline in the years ahead, if the State is to maintain the current projected structural budget surpluses. Mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of this education funding priority and the Governor's tax relief proposals.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19. High rates of inflation and workforce shortages may be short lived or persist, thereby impacting the Maryland economy. While current budget

forecasts project structural surpluses, the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability. The Department continues to urge the General Assembly to focus on maintaining the structural budget surplus.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
(410) 260-6371 or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**