

Hello Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Education, Health, and Environment Committee,

My name is Carlos Childs, I am the Charles County Chair of Our Revolution Southern Maryland. I am testifying and am asking for a favorable report with amendments from this committee on SB 686.

While SB 686 is a first and small step toward addressing the harms of using leaded fuel, we cannot forget the medical impact of lead, especially to children.

The bill should expand to require the Maryland Department of Health to study the levels of lead in residents who live, work, or go to school near aviation businesses that use lead-based fuel, test surfaces inside and outside buildings near such aviation businesses for lead particles, and make these findings public and easy to locate. The bill should also create a recommendation plan on reversing, mitigating health problems of people infected with lead poisoning, and how to end the spread of lead contamination. While also keeping the Dec. 1st deadline for the reporting and recommendations to be made public.

Lead poisoning is a 100% preventable disease and can have lasting effects on a person's physical and mental health.

We have a problem here in Charles County with the Maryland Airport which has piston-engine planes departing and landing at its location. The EPA has noted that piston-engine planes are responsible for the majority of lead in the air. The airport is located less than 1-mile from J.C. Parks Elementary and Matthew Henson Middle schools. Read the article attached learn more about the potential harms of lead-based fuels on the schools:

<https://www.marylandmatters.org/2022/02/13/opinion-charles-co-urged-to-take-action-to-avoid-a-potential-lead-poisoning-crisis/>

It is for these reasons I again urge the committee to provide a favorable report with the amendments stated above for SB 686.