

Committees: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB147, Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

Position: Favorable

3 February 2023

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and the members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports HB147 that requires each county in Maryland to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak with you today.

Many students feel that the burden of climate change falls unfairly on our futures, and our dreams. For me personally, the majority of my life the thing that I have most looked forward to is one day becoming a mom. I even keep a running list on my phone of things I want to do either for or with my future children, these range from putting “I love you” notes in their lunchboxes, to wearing matching pajamas on Christmas morning. But as the climate crisis worsens, I see this dream fade. I ask myself, how can I bring children into a world that is dying? In Maryland, we’re seeing an increasing amount of dangerously hot days and instances of severe weather, with this only expected to worsen if no action is taken.

Many people my age have the same worry. I have had countless conversations with my peers where they begin to excitedly talk about one day becoming a parent, but then their face falls, and they have to qualify what they are saying with, “*if* I become a parent.” Because they too are facing the internal struggle of wanting so badly to have children, but morally not knowing if they should, due to the expected future effects of climate change.

But it is still possible for myself and for other members of my generation to one day be able to become parents in good conscience, and to raise children on an Earth where there is no longer a climate crisis. You have the power to ensure that Maryland is being proactive in addressing climate change, and taking steps to improve the health of Marylanders and of our planet. Bills such as HB147 give me hope that my dream of wearing matching pajamas with my children on Christmas morning will one day become reality.

And it is for these reasons that I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB147.

Thank you,



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