



**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB843
Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program and Climate Impact Health
Coverage Program – Establishment**

Senate - Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Jose Coronado-Flores , On Behalf of CASA

March 7th, 2023

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of SB843 - Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program and Climate Impact Health Coverage Program – Establishment.**

CASA is the largest immigrant services and advocacy organization in Maryland, and in the Mid-Atlantic region, with a membership of over 120,000 Black and Latino immigrants and working families. We thank Senator Kramer for his leadership on this bill.

SB843 is important legislation that will address current and future climate change related weather and health impacts by holding the fossil fuel companies with the largest stakes in the industry accountable for pushing a product they knew was dangerous for the Earth and people. CASA is invested in seeing this bill pass because of the health risks climate change poses on the immigrant community in particular and the need for climate resilient infrastructure in our communities.

The most at-risk individuals regarding climate change are outdoor workers, sensitive populations, and those who reside in flood-prone areas.¹ Many CASA members are construction workers, landscapers, and holders of other manual labor outdoor positions. Regretfully, they are also among Maryland's uninsured. As temperatures rise and more brutal summers come, they will be at extreme risk of heat-related illness. This bill directly addresses their needs for health insurance relating to the effects of climate change.

Lastly, our members also live in flood-prone areas. Take Rock Creek Wood Apartments in Rockville, MD as an example. This particular complex is notorious for severe flooding. Last year, severe rain leading to flooding resulted in a death and 150 tenants displaced. Property damages, loss of valuables, and the trauma evoked by these events, which are forecasted to happen more frequently and intensely, add to the reasons why communities like Rock Creek Wood need climate resilient infrastructure.

In conclusion, SB843 will help protect those in the state who are most vulnerable to the imminent effects of climate change. CASA urges a favorable report.

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<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/environment-natural-resources/program-areas/coastal-climate-program/climate-change-maryland>