



**MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE**

**March 14, 2024**

**HB 993**

**Commemorative Weeks – Maryland Climate Education Week**

**House Health & Government Operations Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) offers this testimony in support of House Bill 993. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 993 would require the Governor to proclaim the first week of April as Maryland Climate Education Week. Education is a powerful tool for fostering understanding and inspiring change. By participating in educational activities and initiatives that promote awareness of climate change, residents of all ages can deepen their understanding of the environmental issues facing our planet and learn how they can contribute to solutions. Through workshops, seminars, and community events, Maryland Climate Education Week can provide valuable opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and learning.

In his encyclical "Laudato Si'," Pope Francis reminds us of the urgent need to address the environmental challenges facing our world, including climate change. He calls for an integral ecology that recognizes the interconnectedness of all creation and the profound impact of human activity on the environment. Proclaiming a week dedicated to climate education is a proactive step towards raising awareness about these critical issues and empowering individuals to act.

Proclaiming Maryland Climate Education Week sends a clear message that the state is committed to addressing climate change and engaging its residents in this important endeavor. It demonstrates leadership in promoting environmental stewardship and fostering a culture of sustainability and care for our common home.

The MCC appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 993.

