



March 14, 2024

SUPPORT: HB 993 Commemorative Weeks - Maryland Climate Education Week

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV and the organizations below support HB 993 Commemorative Weeks - Maryland Climate Education Week and we thank Delegate Stein for his enduring leadership on this issue.

HB 993 has a simple premise, to proclaim the first week in April Maryland Climate Education Week, with a projected outside impact to create the space for students of any age across Maryland to engage in projects, education, and advocacy to raise awareness about climate impacts and solutions.

Declaring “Climate Education Week” is a recommendation in the 2023 [Maryland Commission on Climate Change Annual Report](#). The Education, Communications, and Outreach (ECO) Working Group “recommends that the Maryland General Assembly proclaims the first week of April, coinciding with Earth Month, as “Climate Education Week.” This annual declaration would provide a unique opportunity for state agencies, county and municipal governments, and private organizations to come together in celebration and education. During Climate Education Week, schools, colleges, universities, and various institutions can host exceptional events, workshops, and activities that focus on climate education and action. The ECO is fully committed to providing abundant resources to assist all Marylanders who wish to participate in and celebrate this week, fostering a culture of climate consciousness throughout our state. By implementing these recommendations, our state will make significant strides toward enhancing public awareness, education, and engagement in climate action, ultimately contributing to our shared goals of reducing [greenhouse gas] GHG emissions and building a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient future for all Marylanders.”

The first week in April is a strategic decision, as it is [Worldwide Climate and Justice Education Week](#) and National Public Health Week, which usually has a dedicated [daily theme](#) of climate change because of the recognized impacts on human health and wellbeing. An example of information provided is the [Climate and Health Youth Education Toolkit](#). Bringing these international and national themes to Maryland gives us the opportunity to join a global movement in supporting a healthy climate and environment for future generations.

Youth across the country face ecoanxiety in the face of a changing climate, with [demonstrated improvements in mental health when they are part of the solution](#). Education is the universal key to unlocking a student’s potential. Declaring the first week of April “Maryland Climate Education Week” gives students opportunities across the state to unlock their potential to contribute to climate solutions and lean into our state’s leadership.

Maryland LCV and the groups undersigned below urge a favorable report on this important bill.

Assateague Coastal Trust
Audubon Mid-Atlantic
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universal Environmental Justice Ministry
Climate Communications Coalition
Climate Diet/Sustainable Earth Eating
Climate Reality Greater Maryland

Climate Parents of Prince George's
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Howard County Conservancy
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
Maryland Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland Public Health Association
Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc.
The Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland