



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

March 17th 2026

HB620

**Commemorative Months - Maryland Climate Education Month
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of **House Bill 620**. The Maryland 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 620 would require the Governor of Maryland to annually proclaim the month of April as Maryland Climate Education Month. The proclamation would encourage residents, schools, organizations, and community leaders across the state to participate in climate-related educational activities and initiatives. The bill aims to promote greater awareness and understanding of climate issues while encouraging individuals and institutions to take meaningful actions that support environmental stewardship and sustainability.

The intent of this legislation is to create a dedicated time each year for education, reflection, and engagement around climate issues that impact Maryland's communities, natural resources, and future generations. By formally recognizing a Climate Education Month, the state can promote conversations in schools, local governments, and community organizations about the importance of environmental responsibility. This initiative would help equip Marylanders with the knowledge necessary to better understand climate challenges and participate in solutions that strengthen resilience and sustainability across the state.

This legislation reflects the principle of care for creation, which calls on all people to responsibly steward the Earth and its resources for the good of present and future generations. Recognizing Climate Education Month encourages a shared commitment to protecting the environment while promoting the common good. By fostering awareness, responsibility, and collaboration, this legislation helps cultivate a deeper respect for creation and the communities that depend on it. Communities become better prepared to address environmental challenges when residents understand the impact of climate change on public health, local ecosystems, agriculture, and economic stability. Through education and community engagement, Maryland can build a stronger, more informed public committed to protecting the environment and promoting long-term sustainability.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference urges a favorable report on **House Bill 620**.