

TO: Government, Labor and Elections Committee

FROM: Amy Lambert, Jabari Walker. Education, Communications & Outreach Co-Chairs

DATE: March 13, 2026

Re: Testimony for HB 620-Commemorative Months--- Maryland Climate Education Month

As co-chairs on the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, we are delighted to indicate that the Commission stands with Delegate Moreno in support of HB 620 for several important reasons:

First, this bill reinforces Maryland's long tradition of **environmental stewardship**—helping preserve the natural resources and environmental legacy that define our state.

Second, it recognizes that **climate change is a real and present challenge** affecting our state's environment, economy, and the health of our communities.

Third, this legislation will strengthen partnerships and increase public engagement among educational institutions, research entities, community groups, and faith-based organizations across the state.

April is known as Earth Month around the globe and observing a Climate Education Month annually in Maryland will raise much needed awareness about the causes and solutions of climate pollution on Maryland's vulnerable lands and coastal areas, and the health & well-being of all Marylanders and it's natural resources.

HB 620 has extraordinary support from respected organizations and is cost-free legislation. The Maryland Climate Teach-In, which is an annual event that inspired this legislation, has grown tremendously since it's first year, from 25 registrations to well over 200 last year representing all levels from pre-K, to higher ed, to adult groups.

The Climate Teach-In was modeled after the Worldwide Teach-in and last year's participation made Maryland's effort larger than any single participating nation in the world. That alone gives you a relevant snapshot of the interest among our state in this subject matter. It is also important to note that Governor Moore has issued a Proclamation of Maryland Climate Education Week/Month for three years running.

This moment presents an opportunity to send a clear message: that Maryland is serious about educating its citizens about climate change and the solutions to address it, it highlights our state's leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing climate awareness, and it may also set a precedent for other states to follow.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jabari S. Walker

Amy Lambert

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