

1/29/21

BILL: SB0076
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation
SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

I'm Julia Hananel, and I'm an eighteen year old student at University of Maryland, where I'm a member of the AcClimate environmental club.

Like many other students my age, climate change has been on my mind throughout my teenage years. We've heard about the disastrous and deadly consequences that we'll face if we don't curb rising temperatures. Climate change looms in our minds when my friends and I talk about our future. In these conversations, there is more anxiety and uncertainty than there is excitement -- will we be able to live somewhere with healthy enough air quality to breathe? Can we find somewhere without severe, destructive weather patterns? There are fewer and fewer places that meet these criteria.

We've been betrayed by previous generations, and are now left with a seemingly apocalyptic future. We're frustrated with the lack of leadership on climate change, and elected officials who don't seem to care about our future. Like many other students, I've channeled my frustration into action.

I'm part of a generation that has challenged the status quo and stood up for our safety and our future. We've skipped school to protest for climate action, knowing that our education is meaningless if there is no hope for a healthy planet. We've organized, protested, and delivered record-setting youth voter turnout in the 2018 midterms and in the 2020 general election. I've been organizing and protesting for my future before I could even vote.

Maryland's coastal location makes it one of the most vulnerable states when it comes to the impacts of climate change. Low-lying areas like Annapolis are already dealing with frequent flooding. Our farms will suffer more and more from rising temperatures and droughts.

Bold climate action is long overdue, and the Climate Crisis and Education Act is an excellent place to start. As someone who has gone through the Maryland public school system K through 12, I am excited to have a bill that addresses climate change while providing funds for our schools.

I'm proud to be from Maryland, and I want to be proud of the work Maryland does on climate. My generation would be proud to see a bill passed like the CCEA.

For these reasons and more, I, Julia Hananel from AcClimate, urge a favorable report on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee