

February 15, 2021

BILL: HB0033
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 2/18/2021
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters
SPONSOR: Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo

As lifelong advocates for social and environmental justice the Charles County NAACP supports a Favorable report for HB0033. As an organization, we have a legacy of fighting against educational and environmental inequities. We believe the time has come to unite and address head-on the issues that plague our community for far too long. The Charles County NAACP is concerned with issues related to teaching and learning and the lack of clean energy in our community. The Climate Crisis and Education Act (CCEA) is designed to address those concerns.

CCEA will produce renewable energy which will create jobs and economic vitality. The CCEA contributes to three separate funds for education, green infrastructure, and household and employer benefits. The CCEA will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030, plus add \$350 million toward public education annually which would support the Kirwan Education Fund.

The Kirwan Commission on education has proposed legislation meant to level the playing field for all students and it seeks to compensate teachers according to their experience and training.

Under the Kirwan Commission's legislation, early childhood education would be prioritized. As an example, underprivileged students and their families would have access to full-day preschool, providing them with a strong foundation for subsequent education. This is but one example. Basically, the tenets under the Kirwan Commission legislation allow for a "level playing field" for all students.

Teachers have long been disregarded as the professionals they are. American teachers are generally compensated at a lower level than their counterparts

around the world. The Kirwan Commission seeks to level the playing field regarding teacher compensation as well. Better compensation attracts quality educators.

Although the Kirwan Commission legislation allows for solid changes to education, it falls short in funding. Compensating the bill with funding from the CCEA would benefit learners and educators for years to come.

For these reasons and more, I Dyotha R Sweat, urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 0033.

Respectfully submitted,

Dyotha R Sweat
President, Charles County NAACP
240.776.2828

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee