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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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**Testimony in Support of HB975 - Prince George's County – Board of Education – Student Member Voting and Member Candidacy**

HB975 expands the voting powers of the student member of the Prince George's County Board of Education (SMOB). The bill repeals the current prohibition on the SMOB voting on matters regarding capital and operating budgets, school closings/reopenings, school boundaries, collective bargaining decisions, and student disciplinary matters.

Under the bill, student members of the board will still be prohibited from voting on teacher and administrative disciplinary matters. HB975 will put student board member voting rights in the same posture as other large jurisdictions, such as Montgomery and Anne Arundel, who do not have these restrictions in place.

Additionally, this bill has a provision that will repeal the prohibition on current board members from seeking other public office while serving on the board. Prince George's County is the only jurisdiction in the State that has this law in place.

Removing these archaic prohibitions on voting will increase equity and accountability for the Board as a whole. The PGCPS Student Member of the Board represents over 130,000 students, and their voice should be equal to their counterparts. This is a change that is long overdue.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB975.