

c/o Senator Kagan
Maryland General Assembly
Senate Office Building Room
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

February 2, 2026

SUBJECT: PLEASE PASS THE MARYLAND CIVIC SEAL - HB SB0204

Dear Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members,

The Maryland Civic Seal is more than an award.

It is a symbol that sends a clear signal that participation, service, and informed citizenship are valued outcomes of education.

States that have adopted similar seals are elevating civic learning and giving students meaningful incentives to engage in their communities.

Research shows that when students have real opportunities to practice civic skills, they are more likely to vote, volunteer, stay informed, and stay connected over time.

I am writing to give written testimony that Maryland should be part of that growing national effort.

I am a sociology professor at a Maryland Community College. Students in our sociology courses are actively volunteering in the community. It helps them connect with future employers and gives them a sense of pride and responsibility for the people that live in their neighborhoods.

I can also attest to the fact that students that volunteer also vote given national statistics. Students that vote understand that are elected representatives can help make a difference in the lives of their own family members, and extended community.

Please support **HB SB0204!**

Diane

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