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SB204 Education – Maryland Civic Excellence Program – Established

Bill Hearing Date February 2, 2026

Position: Favorable

Dear Sen. Kagan and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is **Sharon Green**, and I am a parent and educator from Baltimore County. I strongly support the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence because our state should recognize students who demonstrate responsibility, initiative, and devotion to their communities through meaningful civic engagement.

In my experience, civic learning is most impactful when young people apply their knowledge beyond the classroom. I have supported students with projects where they are engaging with the community for years, and every year it is the most memorable and impactful part of their studies. This is how we break down the walls of the classroom to allow students an opportunity to see how vital it is to talk with neighbors and make connections to build the community, state, and country they envision. Through this type of work, students develop essential civic skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, ethical decision-making, and respect for diverse perspectives.

Currently, too few students see civic engagement recognized as a core part of educational success. A graduation seal would signal that Maryland values service, participation, and leadership alongside academic achievement and career preparation.

This is an especially meaningful moment to establish the Seal as we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Honoring students who actively live out the principles of responsibility, self-government, and commitment to the common good helps ensure that the next generation is prepared to sustain our democratic republic.

Please report favorably on SB204.

Thank you.

Sharon Green