

Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wil Andriane. I am a senior at Severna Park High School, serving as the Secretary of Legislation for CRASC, or AACPS' Student Government, and am here in **strong** support of HB0057. A bill that will:

- Motivate students to get involved with civics in their community through the Seal of Civic Excellence

And

- Reward students who have demonstrated civic commitment in their communities

Through working with student governments and student leaders alike, I've seen how exposure to civics completely transforms a student into a leader. The issue with students not being involved is not rooted in apathy, but rather a lack of awareness of opportunities and a lack of recognition.

By introducing the **Seal of Civic Excellence**, schools are given a way to recognize these outstanding student leaders who commit themselves to understanding and entrenching themselves in government and community.

These recognitions may just seem symbolic, but the motivation it brings often sparks a lifetime passion for these students.

I am a product of this; I am a product of extrinsic motivation shaping passion.

My sophomore year of high school, I signed up to be an election judge in the 2024 primary election. My AP Government teacher told me about it, so I checked it out, and members of this committee, when I tell you my reaction when I saw I got a \$375 stipend. I don't know if I've signed up for anything faster.

But being there, with people passionate about democracy and community, just made something click. What started for me as a quick paycheck, some extrinsic motivation, snowballed into a genuine passion for civics.

HB0057 isn't just about rewarding students for engaging in civic life; it's about creating a culture in which civic learning is valued in every classroom.

A favorable report for HB0057 is one to ensure Marylanders not only graduate academically prepared... but civically ready to lead.

Thank you