

BILL: HB0629
TITLE: County Boards of Education- Student Member- Voting
POSITION: AGAINST
HEARING DATE: 2/05, 1:30 pm
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
SPONSOR: Delegate Novotny

Hello everyone, my name is Oliver Song, and I am a sophomore at a local high school in Howard County. I am here to testify against the County Boards of Education- Student Member-Voting Bill.

I cannot even fathom what the people who introduced this bill were thinking. The school system is what raises the nation's children- what educates them on the basics of democracy- what should be filled with fun and joy. Instead, these parents are trying to pry away the only thing that gives them representation.

What is democracy if the constituents do not have a voice in it? The single vote on the board is what represents all of the county's students. Democracy gives everyone a voice- regardless of age. If this vote is removed, then it would be giving in to the tyranny of the older generation.

I can bet the parents are only concerned about this issue as the Student Member voted a way they did not like. Isn't that a little childish? You see something you don't like and you try to remove it.

Don't pull the "Oh I'm just thinking about my poor children". Students are represented by a Student Member. There is no need for you to put your hands in and churn the pot. All opinions are hence your own and not the students. If students truly cared about the issue at hand, they would organize and push for that specific policy- there is again no need for parents to be involved.

Are you concerned that not enough students care about the specific topic you are referring to that the Student Member will take action on? That is again something to ponder. The addition of new Student Board Members would address this issue. There are too many students for one board member to represent- and hence some student's opinions are squeezed out.

For the sake of our democracy, please vote against this bill. More student members would solve the issue that parents are concerned about- not one less.

And yes, removing the vote of the student member is essentially not having one at all.

For these reasons and more, I, Oliver Song, urge a NEGATIVE report on HB0629

Respectfully submitted(reminder that respect is mutual),
Oliver Song

