



HB629 COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – STUDENT MEMBER – VOTING

February 5, 2021

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB629 County Boards of Education – Student Member – Voting**. This bill prohibits student members of a county board of education from casting a deciding vote on issues before the county board.

AACPS strongly opposes any efforts to diminish the voting rights of the Student Member of the Board of Education. Anne Arundel County has a rich and proud history of outstanding student service to our Board of Education and, quite frankly, our county as a whole. Our student Board member is believed to be the only one in the nation on a local Board to have full voting rights. That is a distinction we wear as a badge of honor, and one which has contributed greatly to innumerable Board conversations and initiatives over the years.

AACPS student members of the board, at times, have been the necessary voices of reason and clarity in multifaceted and complex discussions and decisions. They are bright, articulate, responsible, and passionate individuals who are preparing to be brilliant caretakers and leaders of our future. AACPS is the gold standard in this area and we have set the example for others to follow, and we urge you to reject any attempts to change the student member's role.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB629.