



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 629**

**TITLE:**             County Boards of Education – Student Member – Voting

**SPONSOR:**        Delegate Novotny

**COMMITTEE:**     Ways and Means

**POSITION:**       **UNFAVORABLE**

**DATE:**            February 5, 2021

Baltimore County **OPPOSES** House Bill 629 – County Boards of Education – Student Member – Voting. This bill would prohibit student members of a county board of education from casting deciding votes on issues before the county board.

Student members of county boards of education are valued for their insights into the students’ perspective and their representation of student values. Decisions made by county boards of education do not solely effect the staff and faculty of a school, but also impact the lives’ of children that attend these institutions. Students have a real stake in the decisions that are made and deserve to have representation on the deliberative bodies that make them.

County Executive Olszewski was one such member of the board. The lessons he learned serving his classmates informed his experience as an educator, a Delegate, and as County Executive. By removing the ability of student board members to vote on issues critical to the students, this legislation effectively eliminates the input from some of the school’s most valuable voices. The experience student members receive and the role they play in board decisions provides unequalled experience for the important choices to be made in adulthood.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 629. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at [cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov).