

Feb. 5, 2021

**TO:** Members of the Ways & Means Committee  
**FROM:** Stephen Espiritu - Hammond High School  
**RE:** House Bill 629 – County Boards of Education – Student Member – Voting

**POSITION: Oppose**

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee, I am writing as a current high school student in **opposition to House Bill 629**.

SMOBs are a representation of the entire Howard County student body. Taking away their vote in the county BOE renders them useless among the other board members. If you take away their vote, you might as well take away their position in the county since ALL board members are supposed to vote on how education is supposed to be run in HoCo.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue an **unfavorable report** on House Bill 629.