



## **HB0629 County Boards of Education – Student Member – Voting**

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

### WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

### **OPPOSE**

Our names are Olivia Le, Zachary McGrath, and Florence Tian and we are students of Anne Arundel County and part of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils. We are writing in opposition of House Bill 629, County Boards of Education - Student Member - Voting, that would prohibit student members of a county board of education from casting a deciding vote on issues before the county board.

Student voices are important and should be taken into consideration when making important decisions that will affect students. We feel that this bill will limit the students' ability to have a voice when those decisions are being made.

If passed, this bill will limit Student Members of the Board of Education in Garrett County, Worcester County, and every county in between. Student Members of the Board of Education would not be able to cast tie-breaking votes greatly inhibiting their ability to advocate for student concerns when their vote would not count in close votes.

This year students are facing many issues and difficulties that they have opinions on. It would be unfair to these students who have gracefully gone through this pandemic to take away one of their few representatives in decision-making.

Per the *Chesapeake Regional Association of Students Councils* Platform, we support:

- Full voting rights for all Student Members on Boards of Education;
- Opportunities for students to voice opinions on issues that directly affect students; and
- Student participation in decision-making processes.

For the reasons stated above, CRASC strongly urges this committee to vote UNFAVORABLY on House Bill 629, County Board of Education - Student Member - Voting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Olivia Le, Secretary of Legislation, [oliviathomsonle@gmail.com](mailto:oliviathomsonle@gmail.com)

Zachary McGrath, Legislative Liaison, [zachary.m.mcgrath@gmail.com](mailto:zachary.m.mcgrath@gmail.com)

Florence Tian, Legislative Liaison, [florencet107@gmail.com](mailto:florencet107@gmail.com)