

Testimony in OPPOSITION to House Bill 629

Prepared for the House Ways and Means Committee Hearing, 2/5/2021, 1:30 PM

Good afternoon Delegate Kaiser and members of the committee,

I am providing this testimony as an individual, and not as a representative of any board or organization in which I am a member.

I OPPOSE House Bill 629, County Boards of Education – Student Member – Voting.

This bill would serve no purpose other than to diminish the role of the county Student Members of Boards of Education across our state. I have followed the work of many Student Members of the Board, both as a public education advocate in Prince George's County and this past year on the State Board of Education. I see their passion and dedication at a time of increased political polarization that challenges us all to do better. Student voice is an important part of the collaboration that will help us move Maryland forward. We should be encouraging this civic engagement in our young leaders rather than weakening it.

No action in our Boards of Education is decided solely by one member, and a student member's vote should not be valued less than others. I urge you to maintain the right of Student Members to vote without this additional stipulation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lori Morrow
Prince George's County, District 23A