

Feb. 5, 2021

TO: Members of the Ways & Means Committee
FROM: Anthony Duan, Centennial 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**.

If you can't break a tie that means you can only vote when the matter is already decided. Therefore, you have no power. So why should SMOBs have power? Well, students are the most directly affected by any school board decision, and "virtual representation" through those member their parents elected is, well... essentially why the United States rebelled against Britain. Having others speak for you, no matter how closely those who choose them are connected to you, counts for nothing unless they are accountable to YOU. That is why we have a student representative: to offer OUR perspectives.

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