

SJ 7

Amy Waychoff

Favorable

Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Amy Waychoff and I have lived in Montgomery County for over 34 years. I am writing in support of SJ 7, Senate Joint Resolution: Support of Parents' Rights to Bring Grievances to County Boards of Education. This bill basically affirms the rights imbedded in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Furthermore, parents and not administrators or teachers have the primary responsibility for what is being taught to their children. During the last couple years, parents across the country have been expressing this belief at school board meetings, and they have done so peacefully. Any violence or threats of violence at these meetings have been isolated and dealt with appropriately by local law enforcement. Finally, federal, state, and local governments should not have the ability to stifle protected speech. This bill is necessary to ensure that our First Amendment rights at school board meetings are protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,

Amy Waychoff

Bethesda, MD