

**Testimony from Shawnice King, Baltimore City Organizer, District 12 Resident
HB433 - Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – Alterations**

Before the House Ways & Means Committee/Senate Education

2/8/2022

Position: FAVORABLE with amendments

Good morning members of the House Ways & Means Committee/Senate Education,

My name is Shawnice King and I'm a District 12 resident. I support SB157 to increase the amount of student members of the Baltimore City Schools Board of Commissioners from one to two, to give those student members full voting rights and the ability to participate in closed/executive sessions, to alter the process by which those students are chosen to be more democratic, and to establish a commission to research and make recommendations of board member compensation. This bill matters to me because I often felt like my voice and my peers' voices were not being heard. Students have a front live to everything going on in their school system, so why not give them a seat at the table. If we actually believe in our young people, then they deserve to be full, not token members of the board. Many leaders in positions of power tout their respect for the intellect and ability of our students yet we currently do not trust our student commissioner with full voting rights to weigh in on the issues in which they will be most directly impacted. We believe that the student's voting rights should be expanded and they should have the ability to participate in executive/closed sessions and special meetings of the board.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB157.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shawnice King
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