

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
2 West, Miller State Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1912

**RE: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS SB 402/HB 402 Kent County Board of Education Student Member**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

Today the current education article for Kent County does not formally recognize the student member of our Board of Education as a member of the Kent County Board of Education. This amended legislation submitted by Senator Hershey would formally do so.

I support this amended legislation as it allows our system to formalize the position of Student Member of the Board as determined by the Kent County Board of Education. It is important to receive feedback and opinions from our student member as it provides varying views and helpful information regarding various topics. However, in conducting school board business, there are confidential issues and matters that are discussed in closed session. It would not be appropriate for a student to be in these closed sessions and this amendment codifies both elements above.

This letter provides written testimony in support of SB 402/HB 402 Kent County Board of Education Student Member as amended where the student member of the board is recognized but not giving authorization to attend and executive session of the board.

Respectfully,



Joseph Goetz  
Kent County Board of Education – Board President

Cc: Education, Energy and the Environment Committee Members  
The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.  
The Honorable Jay A. Jacobs  
The Honorable Steven J. Arentz  
The Honorable Jefferson L. Ghrist  
The Kent County Board of Education  
Dr. Karen M. Couch